July 1997

# DeafLife

$2.50

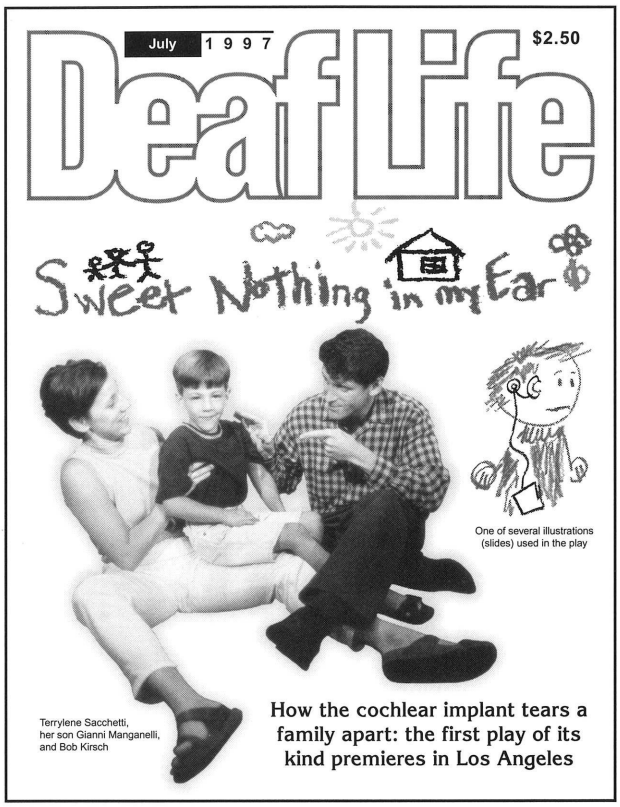
## Sweet Nothing in my Ear

Terrylene Sacchetti, her son Gianni Manganelli, and Bob Kirsch

One of several illustrations (slides) used in the play

**How the cochlear implant tears a family apart: the first play of its kind premieres in Los Angeles**

VOLUME X, NUMBER 1 JULY 1997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How the cochlear implant tears a family apart: the first play of its kind premieres in Los Angeles

# COVER

DESIGN BY MATTHEW S. MOORE
PHOTO BY ED KRIEGER

**SWEET NOTHING IN MY EAR** is a new play written and directed by Stephen Sachs of Los Angeles' Fountain Theatre. It focuses on how the cochlear-implant controversy affects one family. The cast includes four outstanding Deaf performers: Terrylene, Freda Norman, Vikee Waltrip, and Bernard Bragg. It also stars ASL-fluent hearing actor Bob Kirsch. Gianni Manganelli, Terrylene's son, makes his stage debut.

The multiple conflicts involve Deaf and Hearing values, "sameness" and "differentness," and technology versus culture. But ultimately, it's a play about love—what parents do for (and to) their children out of love—and what they discover about themselves. ***Sweet Nothing in My Ear*** avoids pat answers. It doesn't offer any quickie "solution." It's a play for *all* audiences (whatever their political bias) to think about. **10**

# Publisher's Note

As we all know, the practice of giving deaf children cochlear implants has become perhaps the most hotly and bitterly debated topic in the Deaf community. It's probably a hotter issue than mainstreaming and recognition of ASL, because it strikes at the heart—and the future—of our community: deaf children, most of whom are born into hearing families. Parents who decide to get their deaf children implanted may or may not have an innate prejudice against sign language and the Deaf community, but they are obviously going to extremes to keep their children in the "Hearing world."

The **Washington Post** recently devoted a front-page story to the implant controversy. While attempting to present a balanced picture, it was what Harlan Lane calls a "biased botch."

So far, the Deaf community has been fighting a losing battle against childhood implants. More and more hearing parents are choosing to have their deaf children implanted—despite evidence that the implant does not work that well, that it may create more problems than it supposedly solves, that its success is unpredictable, and that implanted children don't necessarily gain better speech skills. The cochlear-implant industry has unlimited funds, clout, effective PR campaigns, and a well-organized medical-organizational-referral network. The Deaf community doesn't. Opponents of childhood implants are simply not *organized*. The media plays up "high-functioning" implanted children; high-functioning *unimplanted* ASL-Deaf children seem to be invisible.

So . . . what are we going to do?

Matthew S. Moore

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## MAKING A SPLASH IN PHILLY

■ Creative Access, the cultural-arts-accessibility organization founded and directed by Carol Finkle of Philadelphia, proud mother of two Deaf children, is celebrating its fifth anniversary. Two of its best-known projects are ASL-interpreted mainstage plays, and an open-captioned big-screen-movie series. **20**

## Beyond the Envelope

### EXCUSES, EXCUSES

■ This month's "Beyond the Envelope" installment addresses a problem seen in organizations and the workplace: hearing people who have positions of power and use them to do things that do not benefit us, and the way deaf "find themselves making excuses" for them. Or hearing co-workers and bosses who knowingly discriminate against deaf workers, but, when faced with the prospect of an ADA lawsuit, try to cover their discrimination. Ignorant? Or just unjust? **28**

READERS' VIEWPOINT

## DEAFVIEW

### SOONER OR LATER?

■ Do ASL militants scare hearing parents into choosing the auditory/oral approach? Responses to our were mixed: 45% said yes, 50% no, 5% aren't sure. ASL militants may set a bad example, notes one reader. "But in the end, parents realize that their kids will eventually be a part of the Deaf community." Says another (who questions the role played by "oralist militants"): "A large number of oralists use sign language in private." **30**


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# Deaf Life

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# LETTERS

## "Mothers do know best!"

*Reply to Brice Alden*
*Re: Personal attack against Tom Bertling* ["Letters," February 1997]

You are a hearing person! How can you know or understand being deaf? By what 'so called' authorities do you believe gives you the right to criticize Tom Bertling? Are you a Harlan Lane clone?

Tom Bertling is from a deaf family and I am from hearing family. What we both have in common is we place English speech and English Sign Language high on our priority list. You and the ASL militants attack Tom with verbal and written bullets that are weak and without meaning. Tom's legacy is from both his deaf grandmother (an English orientated Gallaudet student) and deaf mother by their keeping him in the public school system where English is the first priority. Mothers do know best! Don't underestimate the power of women! Don't insult *three of them!*

We respect ASL as a person's *choice*. You should respect English Sign Language, sim-com, Signed English or S.E. E. as *our* choices.

Nothing can reduce us to gibbering goons.

**Frances Parsons**
Washington, D.C.
(A mother and a grandmother)

***Editors' note:*** *Strictly speaking, there is no such thing as "English Sign Language."*

## "A hateful and scathing attack"

*Re: May 1997 issue*

It has been brought to my attention that once again we have seen Mr. Brice Alden deliver a hateful and scathing personal attack in the pages of your publication against a deaf person simply for holding opinions contrary to those held by culturally-deaf militants.

The truth is: Dr. Otto Menzel is a very fine and distinguished gentleman while Mr. Brice Alden, as the now unrefutable evidence shows, resides at the other end of the decorum spectrum.

The irony here is: Mr. Alden's actions substantiates everything that I have written about culturally-deaf militants in *both* of my books [**A Child Sacrificed to the Deaf Culture** and **No Dignity for Joshua**]. In other words: I rest my case.

Leaders of the deaf community take note: This kind of behavior makes it harder and harder for many deaf people to see the things of redeeming value in the deaf community which has now stunk [*sic*] to a historic low. Congratulations.

**Tom Bertling**
Wilsonville, Oregon

## "There's no need to stoop to name-calling"

We all know that lack of civility is a real blemish on today's, quality of life. Rarely, however, has such rudeness been more evident than in Brice Alden's personal attacks against Otto Menzel in your May issue.

Alden's letter uses fighting words and phrases usually reserved for hate-mongering by the most hateful of hate-groups. Here is some of the actual invective used: "Adolph Hitler," "OBSESSION" (his caps), "makes no sense," "Nazi," "deep-seated insecurities and neuroses," "childish," "needs to check with a therapist," "incredibly low intellectual integrity," " knows nothing," and "garbage."

# LETTERS

Especially disturbing is Alden's weak attempt at sarcasm: "But then, Otto probably thinks that a 'pidgin' is a bird you feed at the park." This uncalled-for accusation completely and crudely disregards Dr. Menzel's high academic credentials as well as his literary position as an editor and author of national standing.

Without meaning to, I'm sure, Alden's diatribe serves only to invalidate and discredit the force of his argumentation. Let it also remind the rest of us that, whatever one's disagreement with another, there's no need to stoop to name-calling, innuendo, or claiming evil motives behind another's beliefs. There's a name for such an illicit technique: *ad hominem*, that is, speaking *against the person* instead of debating against that person's *point of view*. Unfortunately, Alden's letter gives your good readers a perfect example of *ad hominem* rhetoric at its worst.

Such a public insult, I believe, calls for an equally public apology.

**Salvatore J. Parlato**
Rochester, New York

## "You can't have it both ways"

From time to time as a constant reader of your **DEAF LIFE** I am impressed that your editorial policy is "Different strokes for different folks." There is more various ways of coping with deafness than the ASL culture. I believe that simple numbers will prove this.

The eminent advocate for the Deaf, Larry Stewart, writes there are 2,200,000 Deaf in America and about 2,00,000 are late Deaf, most with no major social or linguistic ties to ASL or to the Deaf community. It would be generous to estimate that the ASL Deaf community numbers about 400,000 using the late Mr. Stewart's estimate.

When you print serious, reasonable and thoroughly researched articles like that of Dr. Otto Menzel which serves to point the way to other communication methodologies, you do your readers a service. When you use letters like those of Brice Alden you serve only to cloud the issues and aggravate even those who advocate a form of signing.

You cannot control the contents of the letters you get but you can control the printing of them. The tone and the chip on Mr. Alden's shoulders as well as most of Ms. Listisard's commentaries are inflammatory, inaccurate and in the case of the former individual almost libelous.

I don't think you can have it editorially both ways. You either cover all sides of the communication debate or come out of the closet and rename your paper "ASL DEAF LIFE." Then we will all know where we stand.

**Arnold B. Adelman**
Speech and Hearing Foundation of Massachusetts
Newton, Massachusetts

## Dr. Menzel's response

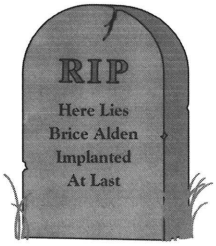
In contrast to bombast, I will only respond to Brice Alden's venomous attack by saying that, if I am to be compared to a NAZI, a NAZI sympathizer, or to Adolf Hitler himself, I wonder why I fought the NAZIs in World War 2 with the 137th Infantry. Where was HE during that war?

As for quoting **Webster's Third New International Dictionary** (also known as the **Merriam-Webster**), the *correct* quote would have been:

literacy n. 1. The quality or state of being literate. 2. The abil-

ity to read a short simple passage and answer questions about it.

**Otto J. Menzel**, Ph.D.
Bristol, Tennessee




Cartoon submitted
by Otto J. Menzel

***The Editors reply:*** *We don't use letters to the editor as a form of "sneak attack" against persons who hold views we disagree with. Letters published in* ***DEAF LIFE*** *do not necessarily reflect our editorial views, as is explicitly stated on our "Table of Contents" page, and as we have made clear to our readers several times.* ***DEAF LIFE*** *is committed to presenting a diversity of views. We believe that our content faithfully reflects that. We prefer not to have a few readers "monopolize" the "Letters" department. But . . . how can we publish other views if we don't get them?*

*We have already assured Dr. Menzel that Brice Alden's letter represents Mr. Alden's views, not ours, and that we had no intention whatever of defaming Dr. Menzel or belittling his views. We respect him and are interested in seeing what he has to say, even though it may not be to our liking. Dr. Menzel told us that he understands our editorial position. We prefer not to censor letters, but to let our readers see and judge for themselves. If we withheld every letter written by an "extremist" in favor of those taking only an inoffensive stance, that wouldn't leave us very much!*

## Throwing *all* hearing people into one category?

I am writing in response to the *For Hearing People Only* column in the May 1997 issue of **DEAF LIFE**. While some of the comparisons between "Deaf" and "Hearing" etiquette are accurate, I believe the writer was presumptuous with particular statements of how hearing people feel in certain situations.

I am a hearing person that works in a state office for people who are Deaf and Hearing Impaired. I am somewhat involved with the Deaf community and have very good friends who are Deaf and use sign language. I must say that I disagree with the statement regarding "personal space." Personally, I do not feel intruded upon if a Deaf person is physical and wants to get my attention, nor do I interpret lively social conversation among Deaf people as "having an argument." I resent the implications that "Hearing people routinely interrupt each other on the phone," and that "Hearing people often interrupt each other when they're angry and yell at each other." I do not believe I am the exception as implied in these statements. It should be noted that how a "hearing person" reacts in a particular situation is a matter of character and personality. Some people are not polite and are very comfortable interrupting you, whether you are hearing or Deaf.

Two of the most intriguing comments were that "Hearing people . . . tend to drop or avert their gaze fairly frequently in normal conversation," and "Hearing people prefer dimly-lit areas." Personally, when I communicate, I prefer to maintain eye contact at all times which shows the other person that I am genuinely interested in what they are saying. It does not matter to me whether the person I am communicating with is hearing or Deaf. I treat them the same. In addition, I cannot say I have a propensity for dimly-lit areas either.

# LETTERS

I am uncertain where the writer of this article got their information, but feel it is unfair to throw all hearing people in one category. It should be noted that the statements made in this article are 1) a matter of the writer's opinion; and 2) based on the personal observations and experiences of the writer when interacting with hearing persons.

My advice? Why not leave the comparisons between Deaf and Hearing people out of the article and focus entirely on the differences within the Deaf community as it relates to "etiquette"? A simple overview of things a hearing person may encounter when interacting with people who are Deaf should suffice (i.e. People who are Deaf offer much detail when communicating; may chew loudly while eating, and might bang on a table, stomp their feet, and/or tap the shoulder of another person to get their attention, etc.).

Respectfully submitted,

**Denise D. Reihart**
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

***The Editors reply:*** *Our examples weren't meant as blanket categorizations—we* know *that one's communication "quirks" vary considerably according to personality and other factors—but to give an idea of some of the important Deaf/Hearing differences. We drew on our own experience and observations.*

*Since you've already had some exposure to Deaf communication, you are most likely sensitized to the need to keep steady eye contact. Frankly, we've met a number of hearing people who have atrocious "eye manners." These are the ones we were thinking of.*

*Some hearing persons, if a stranger approaches them and taps them on the shoulder . . . are liable to jump out of their skins!*

*Many restaurants and nightclubs catering to hearing clientele are dimly-lit. And think of the cliché of a "romantic dinner by candlelight." Hearing culture equates intimacy and romance with dim lights.*

*As for interrupting each other on the phone—we didn't mean to imply that all, or even most, hearing people do this—but that it is far more common for hearing persons to interrupt each other on the phone than it is for TTY users. It's easy for them to do so. It isn't customary for us. New technology makes interrupting possible, but it hasn't been around long enough for us to take it for granted!*

*As for table-banging . . . we'll be doing a separate feature on practices like that and their effect on hearing strangers.*

## "A beautiful and touching remembrance"

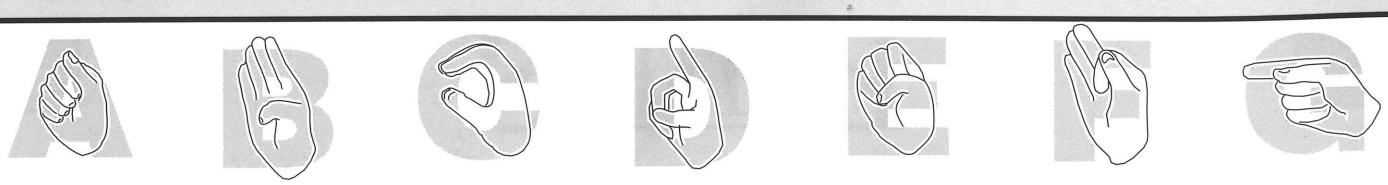
I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Matthew Moore, the **Deaf Life** staff, and all those who contributed to the recent tribute to Mark Allen Branson. All of you created a beautiful and touching remembrance of Mark.

I especially want to express my gratitude to Matthew for his kindness through this terrible time by how he asked for input and respected all of our pain. I must also complement his staff by how they lovingly wrapped all of my pictures before they were returned. It was so touching to see how they understood how valuable these "treasures" are to me.

It is so important to me that Mark and his impact on both the Deaf and Hearing Communities is not forgotten. This tribute is one way that he will always be remembered.

**Arlene Velleman**
Boston, Massachusetts

All letters must be signed and have a return address. No anonymous (unsigned) letters will be published, but we will withhold your name on request. Send letters to: **DEAF LIFE**, c/o MSM Productions, Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380. FAX: 716-442-6371. E-mail: deaflife@deaflife.com



# FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY™

## Is it important for interpreters to socialize with the deaf community?

—asked by **Sherry Pifer**, Hutchinson, Kansas

Sign-language interpreters, by the nature of their job, are in a complicated position. Deaf people are their clients, their constituency. But can Deaf people be their friends as well?

There is no law against interpreters having Deaf friends, or even socializing with their clients. The formidable RID Code of Ethics is designed to protect the privacy of the client and to safeguard the confidentiality of what transpires while the interpreter is on duty. What is discussed during that transaction is not to be discussed with anyone else afterwards. And, because the Deaf community is relatively small (everyone seems to know everyone else), this can be a real problem for interpreters and clients involved in "sensitive" transactions such as psychiatric or sexual-abuse counseling.

Off-duty, interpreters are free to associate with whomever they please. Some are active in the Deaf community, socialize with Deaf people, and have Deaf friends. They are liked and respected, and are always welcome—for themselves.

The term "interpreter" can encompass anyone from a seasoned, highly-skilled veteran to the rawest of fumbling freshmen. While a number of interpreters have native fluency, many don't. Some, after all, don't have any exposure to ASL or signing before college. Suppose the interpreter in question is an ITP student whose background in signing is relatively limited? Many are inexperienced, "green," and may never have interacted with Deaf people before taking their first ITP classes. What about *their* relationship with the Deaf community, which traditionally looks on "arrivistes" and strangers with suspicion?

We referred the question to a veteran interpreter, Helen Young, whom we consider one of the very best. She replies:

This is a subject for controversy. My feelings are: "It depends."

Some [ITP] students and [other] hearing people have grown up in the deaf club. They would feel comfortable because they would adhere to the "so-

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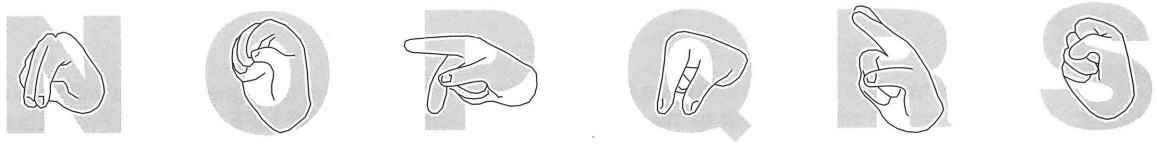

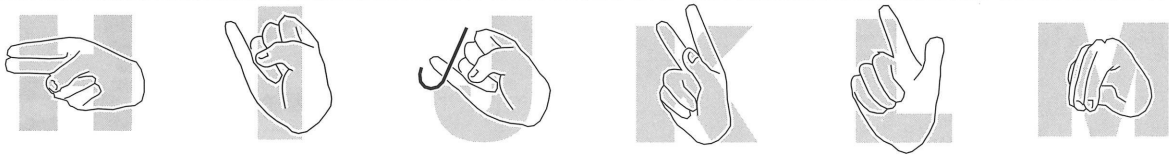

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cial norms." These people can move about without disrupting [the social flow]. New signers would not know these things, except what they've gleaned from teachers and textbooks.

There are two very distinct social happenings at the deaf club. [First,] there are the sit-down-and-talk kind of happenings where deaf people can catch up on the news, discuss ideas, and converse freely [about] their thoughts and ideas.

Then there are the "events" such as fundraisers, Timberfests, picnics, or boating. These are fine for students to attend because they can volunteer to run a booth, set up children's games, or serve food. That's what we call responsibility. Everyone will benefit in some way.

The first situation, to me, would be very obtrusive [for an inexperienced ITP student to try and participate actively] and would perhaps lead to some bad feelings towards students who come to practice signing skills.

There are other ways of doing this, such as becoming a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister" to a deaf student, [or] adopting a deaf grandparent in a nursing home. You can be creative.

By doing the latter, you are giving something back to the community and you are gaining knowledge of a very diverse group of people, without intruding on their social life.

In other words, "green" interpreters have to proceed cautiously when it comes to entering a Deaf social milieu. If they plunge into the wrong social climate (an intimate gathering at a Deaf club) before they develop strong sign skills, they could very easily end up in an awkward or embarrassing "fix," getting snubbed (the cold-shoulder treatment) or insulted (a nasty confrontation). Entering a "closed" social milieu suggests a "pushy" type—someone who's trying to get something (exposure to everyday ASL to improve their sign skills) without having first earned the trust of the community.

If, however, they volunteer to help out at a public event such as a festival (where help is always needed), or perform a vital service like mentoring or tutoring, they are "giving something to the community." They're giving their time and energy. In return, they gain exposure to ASL and learn some fine points of social interaction while making new friends.

There are many interpreters who earn money from their work, but have never earned the Deaf community's respect. What differentiates those who earn respect from those who don't? Ms. Young's comments provide the clue: it's all in one's attitude. Respect must be earned, and making a real commitment takes time and effort. But respect is the best payoff imaginable. When an interpreter cultivates a good relationship with the Deaf community, the harvest is mutual respect. That's the highest compliment that can be accorded to an interpreter: good skills, a good attitude, and one who has earned the respect of the Deaf community. Socializing *can* play an important role in that relationship.■

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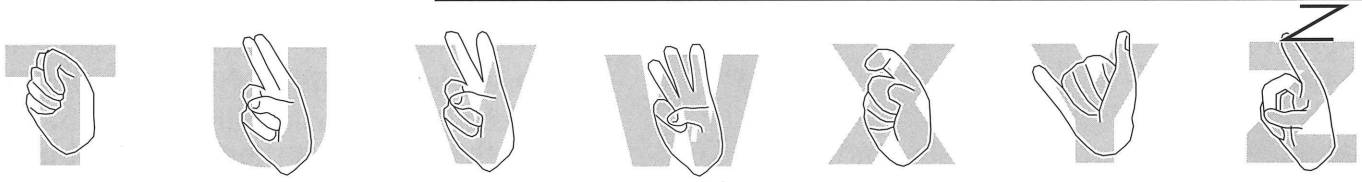
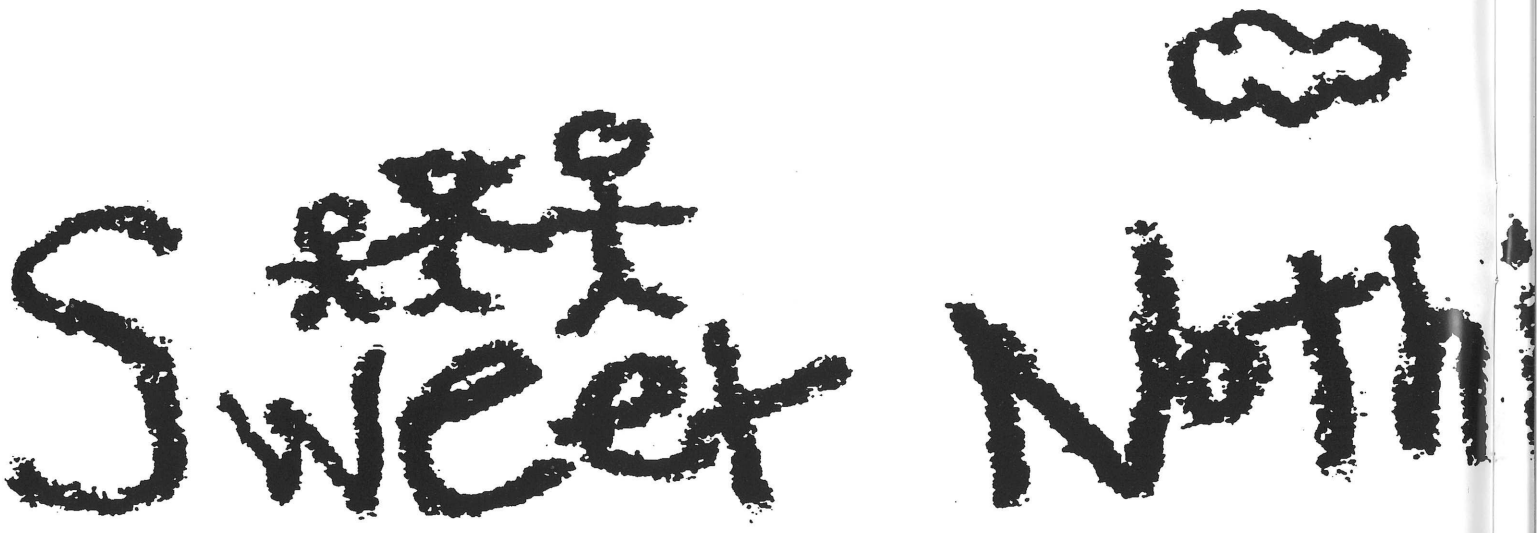




# FIGHTING IT OUT ON THE FAMILY BATTLEFIELD

## Stephen Sach's new play focuses on people, not issues

*Sweet Nothing in My Ear*, a new play in ASL and voice interpretation, premiered on June 20 and runs through July 27 at the Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles.* Written and directed by Stephen Sachs, Managing Artistic Director of the Fountain Theatre, it's the first "mainstream" play to focus on the cochlear-implant controversy as it affects a Deaf boy and his family. It isn't as much a political play as a drama of conflicting values and personalities. Above all, *Sweet Nothing in My Ear* is about love—what parents are willing to do for (and to) their children out of love.

In a sense, *Sweet Nothing in My Ear* picks up where Mark Medoff's *Children of a Lesser God* leaves off. In *Children*, Sarah Norman tells James Leeds that she wants deaf children. James says he doesn't. Sarah later agrees that she has no right to impose her wants on him. In *Sweet Nothing*, the Deaf-Hearing couple now have a child who is Deaf. They are a family. But they are a family in conflict. The Deaf-Hearing tensions in Medoff's play erupt again, with violence, in Sach's play.

The center and innocent cause of the conflict is the 6-year-old boy, Adam (Gianni Manganelli). He is normal, active, happy, and ASL-Deaf. His father, Dan (Bob Kirsch), who works in public relations, is hearing but is ASL-fluent. His mother, Laura (Terrylene), is ASL-Deaf. So are her parents, Sally (Freda Norman) and Max (Bernard Bragg). Laura teaches young deaf children, loves her work, and is a loving and devoted mother and wife. Dan and Laura have a good, solid marriage . . . or so it seems.

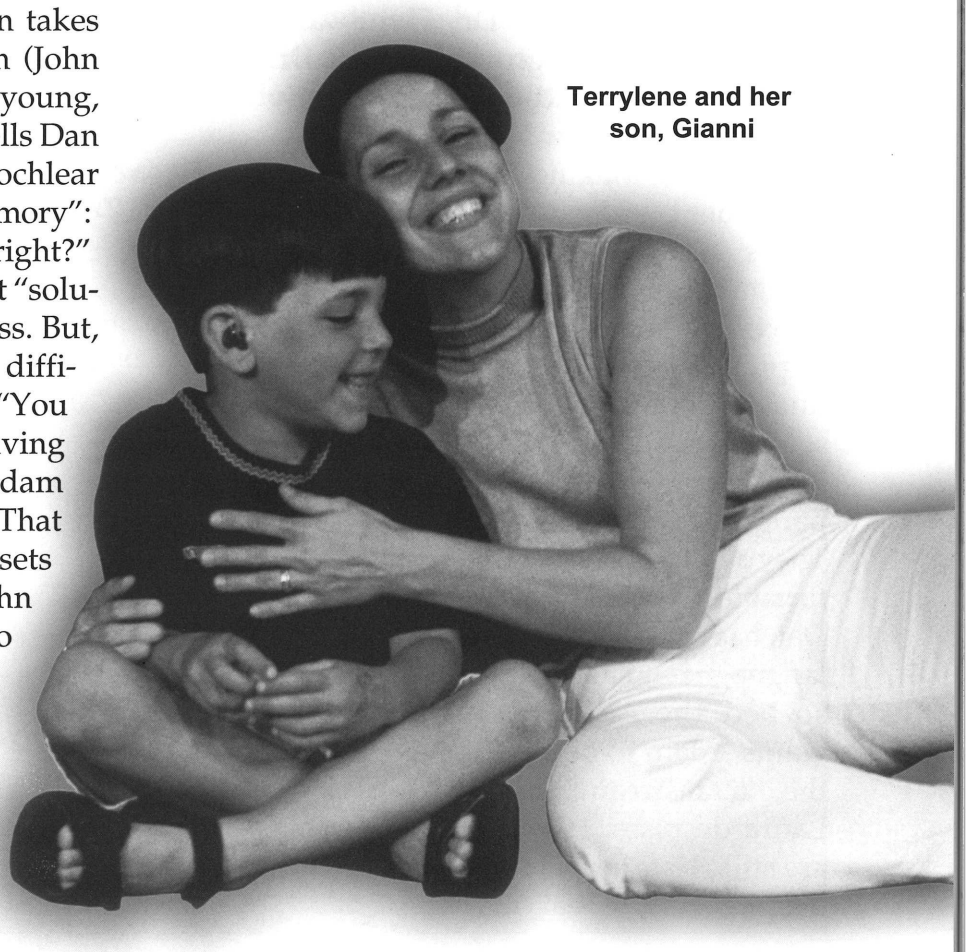
We learn that Adam was born hearing, but lost

his hearing gradually. He is now profoundly deaf, and no longer uses his voice. Laura feels a deeper bond with Adam, a oneness, now that both share a Deaf identity, but Dan cannot quite reconcile himself to "losing" the hearing son he used to have.

Just before Adam's sixth birthday, Dan takes him to a new pediatrician, Dr. Weisman (John Benitz), for a checkup. Dr. Weisman is young, modern, and technologically savvy. He tells Dan that Adam is an excellent candidate for a cochlear implant, especially since he has "speech memory": "Some hearing is better than no hearing, right?" He enthusiastically offers a state-of-the-art "solution" to the "problem" of Adam's deafness. But, he warns, the longer they delay, the more difficult it will be for Adam to regain speech. "You and your wife are lucky. Technology is giving you the opportunity to choose whether Adam should be hearing or deaf." Dan replies, "That choice has been made." Nonetheless, he sets up an appointment with Dr. Flynt (John Benitz) *before* discussing it with Laura, who reluctantly agrees to come with him.

Dr. Flynt shows Laura and Dan slides of the cochlear-implant-surgery procedure, explains what's involved, and summarizes the rehabilitation process. Dan is definitely interested. Laura forcefully rejects it: "You think Adam will belong in a 'mainstream' world with that thing stuck in his head?" She sees the prospect of giving Adam a cochlear implant as senseless mutilation.

For Dan, getting an implant for Adam becomes a mission of urgency, even desperation. He be-



**Terrylene and her son, Gianni**

# Sweet Nothing in my Ear

comes obsessed with the idea of restoring some of Adam's hearing—of bringing back the speaking, hearing Adam he used to know—to reconnect with the child he has lost. The implant will be the technologically up-to-date (if not magical) means by which Adam will be restored, reintegrated into the "real world." He will hear music again, participate in Little League games, talk with the neighborhood kids, and enjoy a full, rich, normal life.

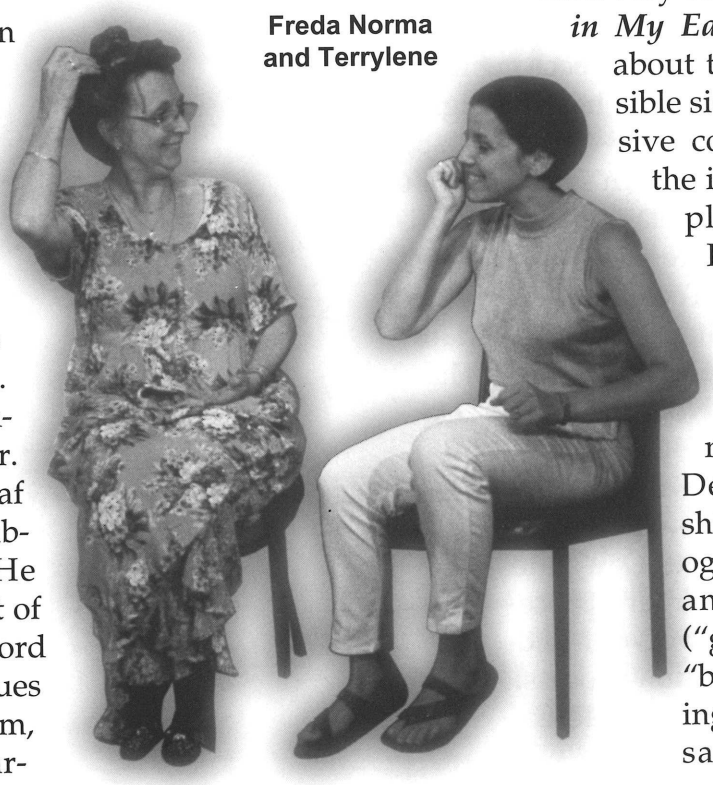
Laura doesn't simply *accept* being deaf; she cherishes it. She doesn't see herself as broken or defective or someone whose "problem" has to be "fixed," but whole. To her, being deaf is one factor that enriches her life—gives it meaning, substance, beauty, and color. She makes an impassioned plea to Dr. Flynt—and Dan—to let Adam grow up Deaf. Dr. Flynt listens, but, of course, cannot really *see* her point of view.

And Dan? Making Dan ASL-fluent adds to the play's irony. Although he signs beautifully and functions as Laura's interpreter and voicer (a dual role he comes to resent), he is still a "Hearing" outsider to Laura's parents, especially Max. They don't feel totally comfortable with each other. Dan has mastered the Deaf language but has never absorbed the attitude. He wants Adam to be a part of the "mainstream," a word Laura despises. His values are still "Hearing." To him, despite his 10-year marriage to Laura, deaf can't be "normal." It can't be "real." The prospect of getting the "old Adam" back is more than tempting—it's irresistible.

**For me, this is not a "deaf play." It's a play. With deaf characters.**

**—**

**Stephen Sachs**



**Freda Norma and Terrylene**

But Adam is already secure in his Deaf identity. He doesn't look back. Neither does Laura. She is the main obstacle—a formidable one—to Dan's scheme.

And, Laura realizes, if Dan cannot accept and *cherish* Adam as Deaf, how can he accept her? How can he love *her*—a Deaf woman?

To placate Laura, Dan halfheartedly agrees to drop the issue, but cannot stop thinking about it. He mourns for the "normal" childhood Adam will never have, is terrified at the prospect of Adam getting injured or killed because he can't hear, and resumes his quest to get Adam connected to an implant. He still cherishes the hope that Laura will come around to his way of thinking.

On a very basic level, ***Sweet Nothing in My Ear*** will teach audiences about the implant and its possible side effects and the explosive controversy surrounding the issue and practice of implanting deaf children. However, to focus exclusively on the pro-and anti-implant aspect is to miss the rest of the play. It's also about communication, parent-child and Deaf/Hearing relationships, culture versus pathology, technology as a savior and as a divisive force ("good" technology versus "bad" technology), accepting or defying God's will, sameness and

"differentness," belonging and unbelonging, minority versus majority, and power.

"No parent is impartial when it comes to their children," says Dan. By focusing on personal conflicts, the emotional cost of the controversy, ***Sweet Nothing in My Ear*** avoids preachiness. It raises questions—but avoids providing any pat answers or quickie solutions. And therein lies its power.

## Rehearsal notes

We asked the lead performers what they thought of the play, and how they felt about their roles and the issues and conflicts presented in the script. They were still busy developing their roles and getting everything together, but were excited because they could already see that ***Sweet Nothing in My Ear*** was going to have a big impact on the audience.

## Terrylene ("Laura")

**"Laura's Deaf, but has the least prejudice"**

It's lovely to be acting again on stage, as Theatre is my first love. It is also an exciting time for me because I am acting with my son and [being] onstage for the first time in my hometown after 12 years [absence]!!! Hopefully, that won't happen again.

I feel that Laura represents a reasonable person who cares about people as they are. She has no desire to correct or judge people. She represents many deaf people who have become sophisticated about science dealing with our deafness.

Stephen Sachs did a great job in making this story [complex] by combining characters that create a powerful contradiction. It is an accurate portrayal of this situation alone. This play is not telling people what to do or not to do; it is a very fair play that presents a plot of what happens to one family.

Laura likes Dan for the man he is and probably saw something in him that she wished to the point where she believed it. Because she believes so much in being a person, she thinks her husband feels the same way. She would never [have married] him if she knew her husband saw "disability" in her. As painful as it is for both of them and their child, it is important that she remove herself from the environment of [Dan's] "something's wrong" attitude. She believes life is too good to live with that mentality, as she says in the play: "Being deaf is WHAT I am. It's as natural to me as

## BACK TO REALITY . . .

Since most deaf children are born to hearing parents (a fact noted in the script), the plot of ***Sweet Nothing in My Ear*** would have been vastly different had Laura been hearing. (Parents have deaf son, go to doctor, get briefed, agree to have him implanted. Boy gets implant. End of story.) But making the mother Deaf, and thus representing a passionate Deaf Culture/anti-pathology point of view, adds a dimension that would otherwise be lacking.

This is a play, a work of fiction. The real-life situation is scary. Despite evidence that the implant is not a "miracle" solution, and may cause more problems that it supposedly solves, more and more deaf children are receiving cochlear implants. The Deaf community seems to be fighting a losing battle. There is a *very* well-organized and well-funded network of audiologists, oralist/implant support groups, and implant-industry promotional campaigning. Parents of newly-diagnosed deaf children are much more apt to get exposed to the pro-implant viewpoint, and persuasively so, as the statistics show. The NAD doesn't have the resources that the Cochlear Corporation or Bell Association do. The American Society for Deaf Children hasn't taken a stance against the implant (although we would imagine that few, if any, parents of implanted children have joined ASDC). The pro-implant propaganda war is overwhelming. Parents of implanted children cleverly use the media to promote their agenda and spotlight their "miracle children" while happy, well-adjusted, high-functioning ASL-Deaf children remain invisible, and deaf and hearing advocates who express doubts about the usefulness of implants are given short shrift. Proponents of the implant, oralism, and mainstreaming are happy about "progress." The Deaf community is alarmed.

The cochlear-implant industry caters to hearing parents. Our question is: who speaks for the child?

breathing the air. As simple, as basic, and as beautiful as taking a breath."

When Dan indicates that he feels like an outsider, that comment is enough to crush Laura, as she never saw Dan as an outsider. She is busy raising a son into a good person: emotionally, intellectually, physically, communication skills, life skills, etc. She is probably the only person in the play besides Dr. Walters who is deaf but has the least prejudice.

This is Gianni's first role. I saw a perfect opportunity for him to explore acting as an enrichment experience. I also knew he would do a good job because he has a good sense of humor and is very good at following directions. Naturally, he loves attention like any child would.

Gio would *not* want to have "wires in my head," as he told Freda one day when they were watching the rehearsal scene of the parents visiting the cochlear-implant doctor.

Gio loves spending time with Freda and Bernard. He has adopted them as his grandparents. His ASL has bloomed by watching the actors translating and playing with creative signs. He's beginning to do the same for himself. When I read him books, I always ask him whether he wants me to tell the story in English as read or signed in ASL? He often chose English because he was so fascinated with the learning-how-to-read process, and now he asks me to do ASL. He said, "ASL is more fun signed and English is boring in sign, but both are good because ASL can't be written."

## Gianni Manganelli ("Adam")

**"I like the story"**

**Q: How do you like the rehearsal process?**

A: I like to act.

**Q: What do you think of Adam?**

A: I like Adam, I like that kind of name.

**Q: What do you think of the story?**

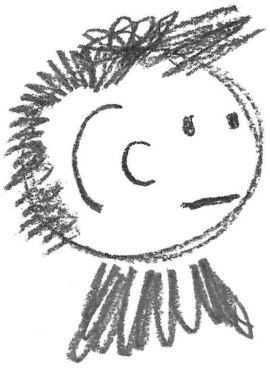
A: like that story, because it was a fun story.

**Q: Should people see the play?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Why?**

A: Because people can enjoy the play.



**It's hard for me to look at my character in a political or symbolic light. To me, he is simply a man whose love takes him on a painful and personally disturbing journey.**

**—Bob Kirsch**

## Bob Kirsh ("Dan"):

**"How far is TOO FAR in wanting to 'make it all right' for your child?"**

[You asked] good questions, and the play is such that I don't think there are hard and fast answers—that's why it's such a hot issue.

How do I feel about the play and about Dan? I tend to agree with your assessment—Dan is a loving, devoted man, who had always thought of himself as free of prejudice. His journey in the play is one of tremendous self-discovery. Unfortunately, what he discovers about himself is not a very positive thing. He discovers the hidden prejudices that lie within him. In his favor, he admits to them. And it virtually destroys him.

In Dan's eyes, his love for Laura and his love for Adam CAN be different. He accepted Laura on HER terms when they met and married. He never saw her as a hearing woman. With Adam, Dan feels that he might be able give back to him the hearing he once had. In Dan's eyes it's not changing Adam so much as "restoring" him. A semantic difference perhaps, and possibly just a justification on Dan's part for actions which may seem reprehensible to some, but I don't think Dan sees his acts as entirely selfish (nor are they entirely selfless, either). Ultimately, I think Dan admits to feeling "hoodwinked." I think he was prepared for the possibility of either a deaf baby or of a hearing baby. But he can't accept the idea of a hearing baby whose hearing was "taken away" from him.

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As for whether I see the character in a negative light. . . . As an actor, it is dangerous to be too much outside the role and judge him. It's my job to commit as fully as possible to the actions, objectives and desires of this character. To see him in a negative light throws off the balance of the play (and Stephen works very hard to keep the play balanced). Dan is a complicated, conflicted man, like many of us. Were I in a similar position, I might not behave as Dan does, but my job is to find the part of me that WOULD do as he does, to admit to it, and explore it. Yeah, of course, at first glance one might want to smack Dan and say "What's the big deal? You know lots of well-adjusted deaf people, stop whining, get on with your life and let Adam get on with his." But my goal as an actor is to find how a man who loves and accepts a fully grown, independent, intelligent, sexy, well-adjusted woman as his wife, can let overpowering love and devotion to his child overwhelm and blind him.

Let me also say that the issue in this play is not, to me, as simple as "Dan wants an implant and Laura doesn't." To me it's "How far is TOO FAR in wanting to 'make it all right' for your child?"

By the end of the play Dan's anger at the resistance of Laura and her family gets the better of him, and he allows his darker feelings to surface and overwhelm him. That takes him by surprise, I think in the scenes with Adam and with Dr. Walters. As for Dr. Walters—I don't think Dan is in a clearheaded enough state of mind to see her as a "symbolic" anything. He is at his wit's end, he knows his life is unraveling, and he unleashes this deep truth about himself to a stranger the way people do when they can't tell the truth to a friend or loved one. And in the final scene with Laura he uses that plea to show her the Website as one last desperate attempt to connect to her—as if "there has to be some way we can solve this. I know I can make you understand. I just need to find that way." Just like in real life, these characters don't give up, and they can't always say exactly what they feel.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 17**


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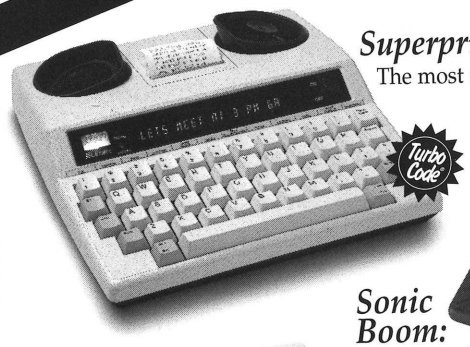

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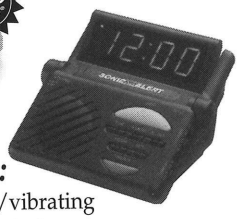

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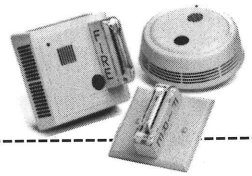

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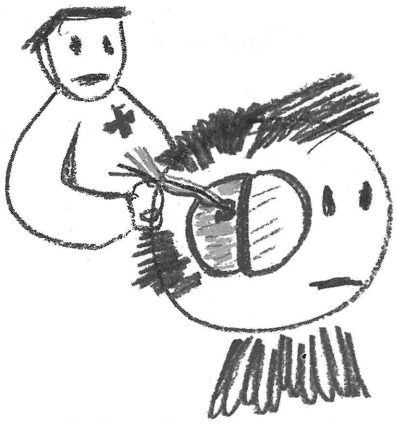
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Do I see Dan as someone "with a problem"? Sure. Does Dan think so? Certainly not. He is trying to "save" his child. A parent would lie in front of an oncoming train to save his child. And Dan gets to the point in this play where he becomes like a dog with a bone. The more resistance he gets to the implant idea, the more he digs his heels in and wants to explore it, to the point where it gets out of all rational proportion and takes over his life. THAT'S his problem. Lack of perspective.

As for the idea that to Dan, Hearing is Good, Not Hearing is Bad, I think that's a little cut-and-dried. Like most hot issues, it's never that simple. Again, to Dan, the issue is that he feels his child had something taken away, plus that Dan is losing contact with this child he loves so profoundly.

It is certainly ironic that his sense of loss seems greater than that of a hearing parent who had no contact with the deaf world and then has a deaf child. Yes, one would expect a man married for seven years to a strong deaf woman to be fully accepting of Adam's hearing loss, but then there wouldn't be much play, would there? What makes it interesting is that very thing—a man who SHOULD have been really comfortable and prepared for it, is nevertheless freaked out by it. Instant DRAMA!



Would Dan get an implant for Adam if he got custody? I go back and forth on that question myself. Lately in rehearsal I've been making a discovery as Dan in my final speech—I realize DURING the speech that what I do for a living (public relations) is ABOUT showing the world one's uniqueness. And that discovery tastes very bitter to Dan, when he realizes how much he's lost in his search to make Adam just like everyone else. Frankly, I'm not so sure what Dan would do.

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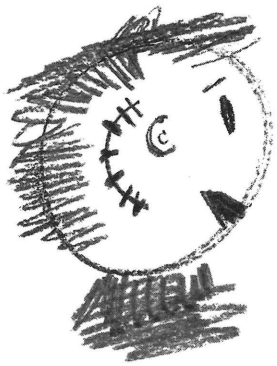


Your final question is about power. Most plays are about power, status, control. Opposing forces each wanting the upper hand. In this case it's the forces of the hearing majority, as Max puts it, assuming that the minority wants to be like them. It's hard for me to look at my character in a political or symbolic light. To me, he is simply a man whose love takes him on a painful and personally disturbing journey. The politics of the play will happen in the minds and actions of the audience members.

## Bernard Bragg ("Max"):

**"Max is an extremist, but I understand him"**

You might say I'm a tad schizoid while resuming this role. The actor in me compels me to believe I'm hostile to computers which, in reality, I am not. I love computers with a great passion. I have high expectations of what technology can do, and will do, to humankind, especially in the fields of modern medicine and cosmology, as long as we know it will never be detrimental to our cultural lives. Max is an extremist while I am not. He is a strong believer while I am simply agnostic. He rejects cochlear implants wholeheartedly while I just have doubts about their present-day efficacy. Like Max, I cherish Deaf values—but not to the point of fanaticism.

As for his importance to the play on the whole, Max is, from the dramaturgical viewpoint, the catalyst of family dysfunctionalism—the reason for the strong conflict between Laura and Dan—a necessary ingredient to make a play. As to where Max comes from, I view him with a warm sympathy and understanding—feelings I must put aside once the curtain rises.

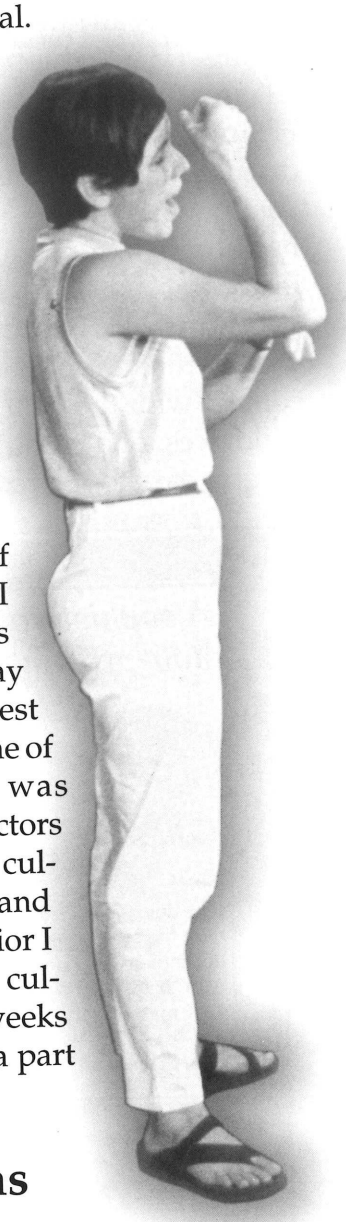
## Vikee Waltrip ("Dr. Walters")

**"In some ways, me and my character straddle the fence"**

The character of Dr. Walters (notice the similarity to my last name?) pretty much parallels my own philosophy in this very explosive issue. I personally find CIs okay, as long as the recipient approves of it, and have often contemplated getting one. I wear as hearing aid as [does] Dr. Walters, so in some ways, me and my character straddle the fence, knowing and understanding both worlds. I believe my importance to this play is to offer myself as a buffer—especially for the character of Dan. I do validate some of his feelings [and] at the same time try to keep my distance and my feelings to myself.

Dr. Walters has a knack of seeing both sides of the issue and remains neutral. I'm the same way—as I learned a long time ago—to jump in or shut up. If I value peace in my life, I do not offer my opinions. However, if the issue affects me directly, I often find myself expressing what I really feel and think, the same way Dr. Walters does. I guess the bottom line is, the truth can be difficult to accept.

I'm glad I have this role of a lifetime—it fits me well. I did have some misgivings as an actor doing this play because one of my biggest fears was being the only one of the deaf cast who was mainstreamed. The other actors all have Deaf parents and cultural exposure from birth and on. . . In beliefs and behavior I don't always fit the Deaf cultural norm. After several weeks of rehearsal, I finally felt a part of this play!



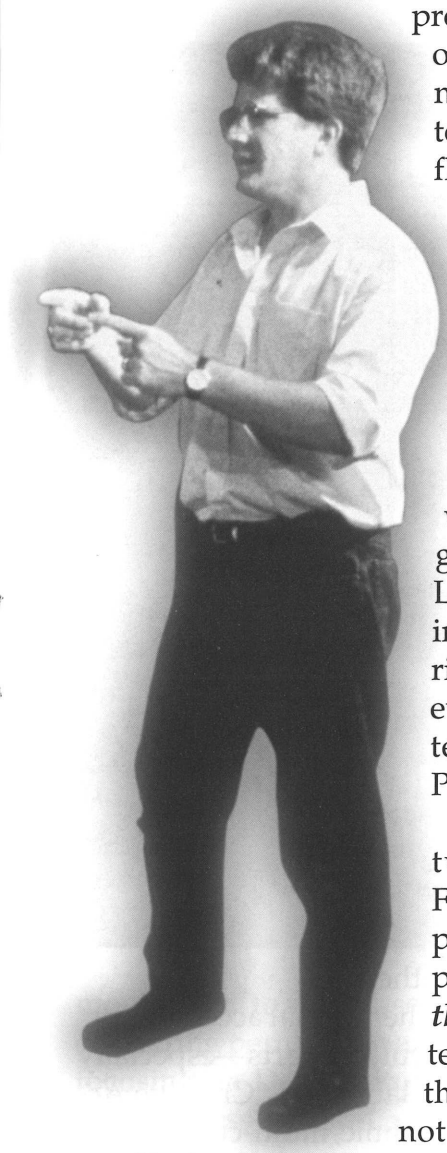
Terrylene

## Stephen Sachs (Playwright):

**"I know the play will have emotional impact for audiences"**

**What inspired me to write the play?** The idea first struck me a few years ago when I saw a photograph in the newspaper of a child wearing an implant. The image was so vivid—an inno-

cent-looking little boy with this device attached to his head. I was immediately intrigued. I had been working with deaf actors in various deaf projects here at the Fountain by that time, but knew very little about implants. When I read the article and learned how hot the controversy was, I saved the article for future use, thinking "this would make a good play." The issue appealed to me because it provided two things: an opportunity to create a new project for deaf actors, and a strong conflict necessary for good drama. I then received a grant from the NEA—and got to work writing the script.



**Stephen Sachs**
**Director**

As I wrote, the play expanded into many issues far beyond whether Adam should get an implant. Family. Love. Parenting. Fighting for what you feel is right for your child—even at the risk of shattering your marriage. Prejudice. Technology.

I am married, with two small children. Family is *extremely* important to me. In this play, what happens ***to the family*** is what matters most to me. For me, the play is about *people*, not an issue. The emotional journey, growth, or shattering of *human beings* as they struggle to relate to each other in this very complicated world.

I have no agenda as far as the implant issue is concerned. And, as a hearing person, I cannot—and would never claim to—speak on behalf of the deaf community. I see myself as a playwright expanding the implant controversy—using it as a metaphor—to tell my story about human relationships. For me, this is not a "deaf play." It's a play. With deaf characters.

The end of the play . . . Yes, it's intentionally ambiguous because the point of the play is not whether Adam ultimately gets in implant or not. It's about what effect the threat of an implant has had on the relationships of the people.

**Dan** . . . I wanted Dan to sign and/or voice-interpret scenes with Laura or Adam—rather than have a neutral person standing at the side of the stage, interpreting—because it throws Dan deeper into the deaf experience. I wanted the audience to experience some moments of the play *through Dan, as he voices for his wife*. When Dan voices for Laura, he loses his identity. The boundaries between them become blurred. And he learns something about himself.

The fact that Adam was born hearing first is crucial to Dan's pain. If Adam were born deaf, we would probably have no play. But the fact that Adam was born hearing—that Dan made that connection to Adam, identified with Adam *as a hearing boy*, and then had it "taken away"—was something Dan never quite got over. It planted a seed of resentment and prejudice that he, himself, never realized was there until it's too late.

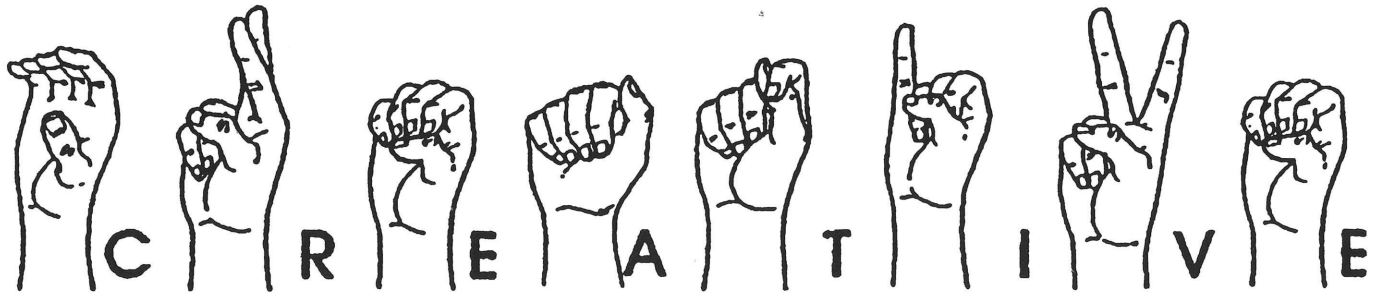
**Laura** . . . Laura's journey through the play is one of self-realization. At the end of the journey, she discovers a very painful truth about herself and her marriage. But she has *grown*, she is stronger, and is *moving forward*.

**Impact of the play** . . . I know the play will have emotional impact for audiences. I see that already in rehearsals. I think this will be the kind of play that couples argue about on the drive home—that's what I want!

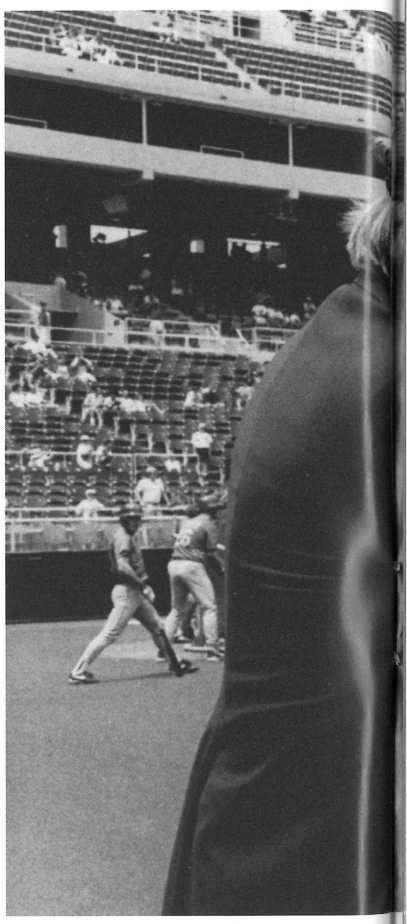
---

**Deaf Life** Photos by Ed Krieger; artwork courtesy of Fountain Theatre.

**Sweet Nothing in My Ear* is produced by Deborah Lawlor and Jessica Korbman. Other actors in the play: Elizabeth Barrett, Jennifer Massey, and Jennifer Snipstad. We wish to thank Ms. Lawlor, Susan Merson, and Kim Garfield for their assistance with this story.




# PASSION & POPCORN IN PHILLY: Creative Access celebrates its 5th anniversary



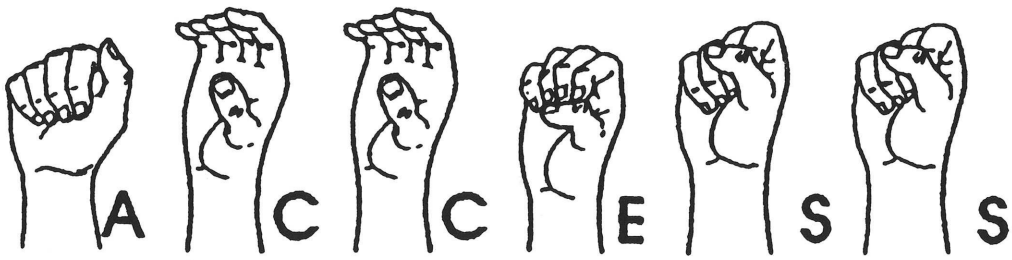
On Sunday, May 18, Creative Access celebrated its fifth anniversary with "Lunch and a Movie"—an Italian-buffet brunch at Pasta Blitz followed by an open-captioned screening of Tom Cruise's smash comedy, ***Jerry Maguire***.

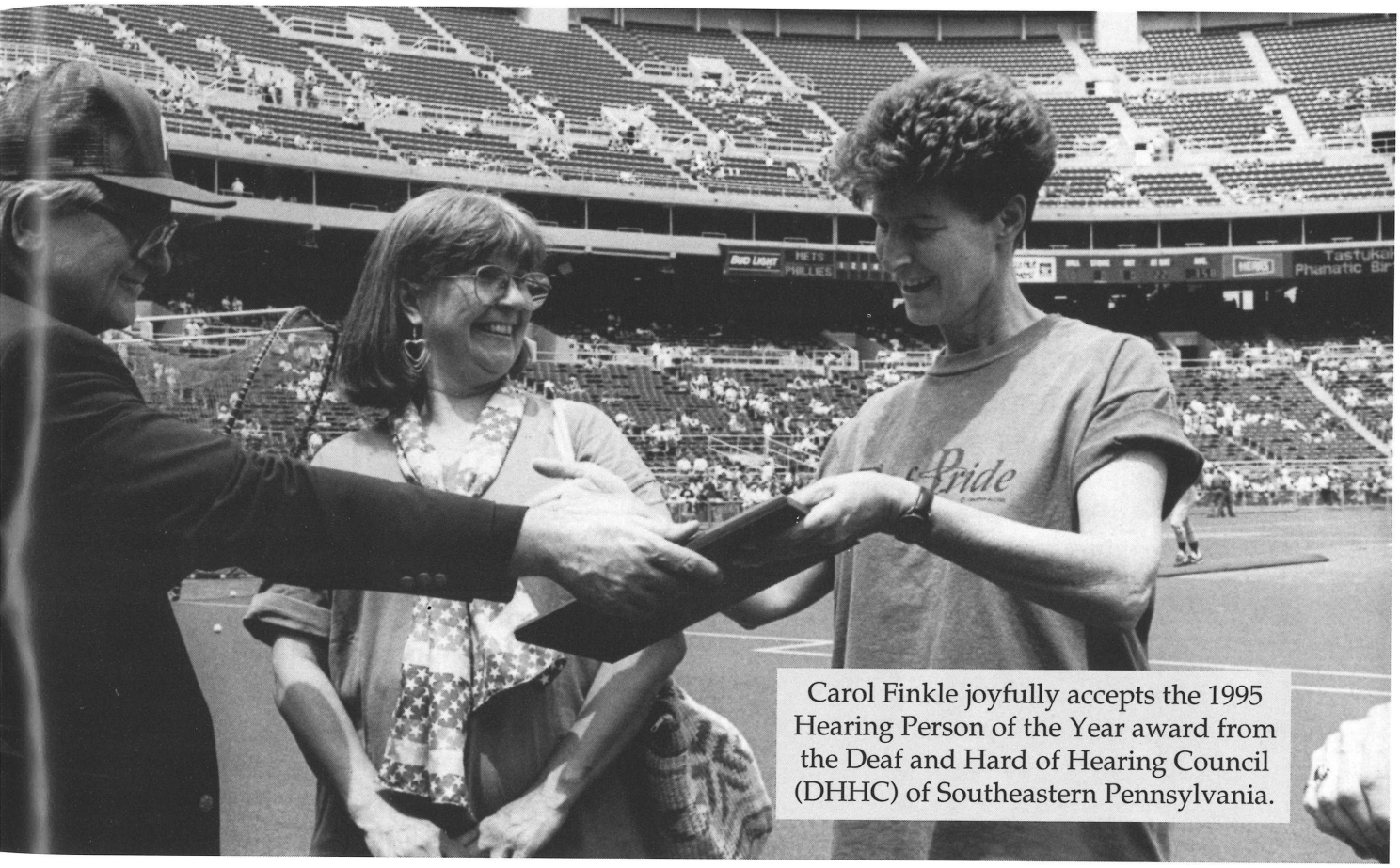
Carol Finkle is the mother of two grown Deaf children, Abigail and Joshua. She is also a teacher of deaf children in the Philadelphia School District. And director of Creative Access, which she founded in 1992.

Finkle received her B.A. degree in English from Temple University in 1976, After learning that Joshua (then 16 months old) was deaf, she returned to school to gain a better understanding of the impact of deafness on children and their families—especially her own. It was a process of personal discovery as much as a desire to gain knowledge. She earned an Master's (M.Ed.) in Education of the Deaf, also from Temple University, in 1986. After Abby graduated from Model Secondary School for the Deaf (on the Gallaudet University campus), Finkle returned to school to earn a second Master's degree, this time in Deafness Rehabilitation, from New York University (1989).

From 1990 to 1992, she chaired the Mental Health Committee of the Deaf and Hard and Hearing Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania, reviving what had been an inactive agency. She advocated on city and state levels for better and more accessible social services for deaf and hard-of-hearing residents. Currently, Finkle is a member of the Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf; Delaware Valley Telecommunications for the Deaf; the Deaf-Hearing Communication Center in Springfield, Delaware County; SHHH's Center City Chapter; NAD; Pennsylvania Educators of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children; Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance; Performing Arts League of Philadelphia—among others.

In 1992, she expanded her "equal accessibility" agenda to include the cultural arts—especially theater and movies. She launched "Creative Access," a nonprofit multi-ethnic, multi-cultural service organization whose goal is "to assure visibility opportunity, and inclusion of Deaf and hard-of-hearing people of all ages in the arts and cultural venues of our region." Her long-cherished dream was to see Philadelphia become a "model city" for accessible arts and culture, and for presenting Deaf talent. "Structural accessibility"—ramps and loop systems—was relatively easy to obtain. She wanted to go beyond that—getting sign-interpreted mainstage and Broadway theatrical productions and open-captioned big-screen



Carol Finkle joyfully accepts the 1995 Hearing Person of the Year award from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Council (DHHC) of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

movies. *And* to showcase Deaf and hard-of-hearing performing artists and works focusing on Deaf Culture. During Creative Access's first 4 years, significant progress was made as traditionally all-hearing cultural institutions responded positively to Finkle's "call for access" in Southeastern Pennsylvania and beyond.

Under Finkle's leadership, Creative Access, the first-of-its-kind in the region, has focused on assisting theaters, film institutions, and museums in making their events, programs, and productions Deaf-accessible. Everybody benefits—the Deaf community *and* the institutions providing the goodies, who want to expand their audiences. One by one, Finkle and her volunteer staff have helped each theater, each cinema, each museum reach out to audiences they never reached before. She has said: "For decades, we have seen signs boasting 'Handicap Accessible' in theater spaces across the region, but only recently have the *invisible* barriers, barriers to communication, begun to be dismantled."

**"The movie-access-movement, if you will, began big-time with us in 1993."**

Finkle's Theater Access Project (TAP) has succeeded in building partnerships with local nonprofit theaters as well as bringing "Sign-Interpreted Broadway"

Interpreters making ***The Miracle Worker*** accessible to Deaf audience members.

Karen Dwyer interpreting the "welcome" comments of ***Miracle Worker*** director Anne Knoll.

to Philadelphia. The Forrest Theater has presented several ASL-interpreted productions of its Broadway presentations: ***Phantom of the Opera*** (June 1995), ***Miss Saigon*** (April 1996), ***Cats*** (October 1996), ***Les Miserables*** (January 1997), and coming up on November 15, ***Showboat***.

As Finkle notes (and as many others have said with a sigh), "But Broadway tickets are ***so*** expensive . . . upwards of $70 per ticket at this point!" So she's "now trying to find corporate and community sponsorship to underwrite subsidizing the ticket costs so that people need only pay $36 per ticket, just as the Theater Development Fund is able to offer for Broadway-show tickets in New York. But so far, no luck. It's hard. We're still looking for a ticket-subsidy 'angel' in Philadelphia!

"The good news is that Ira Kamens of Kamens Publishing in Philadelphia inserts 4 pages, *pro bono*, about Creative Access and each interpreted Broadway show we do into 1,800 **Playbills** every time we do one. That's a *lot* of free publicity about 'access' issues for the Deaf community! And how those hearing audiences *love* the interpreters! *Thanks*, Mr. Kamens!"

Several local non-commercial theater companies have been interpreting their plays for nearly 5 years since they established partnerships with Creative Access as part of TAP: The People's Light and Theater Company in Malvern, Freedom Theater, and the Arden Theater Company, which presented its third accessible production, ***Henry V***, in Spring 1996, and its fourth, ***Willie***, last December. New partners include the Wilma Theater and, just across the river, Puttin' On the Ritz Theatre Company in Oaklyn, New Jersey (***Oklahoma***, November 1996, and ***The Miracle Worker***, March 1997). And one new re-partnering project will include the acclaimed Theater CARAVAN, Pennsylvania's premier professional theater company for children, in a signed presentation of ***The Frog Prince***, this coming Christmas season.

**"It is simply *not enough* to be only about making traditionally all-hearing cultural institutions accessible to Deaf and hard-of-hearing people! We want to showcase Deaf and hard-of-hearing performers too."**

With some long-awaited funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, another piece of Finkle's dream is being realized more fully each year. "This year saw three performing artists of, by, and for the Deaf Culture grace area stages to the cheers and applause (verbal and strictly visual!) of *all* audiences.

"It is simply *not enough* to be only about making traditionally all-hearing cultural institutions accessible to Deaf and hard-of-hearing people! We must also attend equally to the myriad benefits for all involved, whether performer or audience, from showcasing the skill, talent,

and competence of performers who are themselves Deaf and hard-of-hearing, thus adding one more unique minority experience to the already diverse cultural milieu of the Delaware Valley."

Creative Access's Movie Access Project addresses the issue of the long-standing exclusion of deaf people from the American moviegoing experience—an exclusion that began in 1927 when the "talkies" began to replace silent movies. Except for subtitled foreign films, deaf people have been pretty much completely excluded from the big-screen cinemas for nearly 70 years. Open-captioned big-screen films are relatively scarce. So has been the opportunity to see them. Finkle's advocacy has helped generate national interest and a sense of urgency. In February 1995, the NAD appointed her chairperson of its newly-established Movie Access Subcommittee. She said, "It was an honor to accept this appointment, because it means that people who need to be empowering themselves are doing just that."

In June 1994, Finkle received the annual Citation for Distinguished Service from the Pennsylvania Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery in Hershey. After learning of her unanimous selection as the 1995 Hearing Person of the Year by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania, she was especially joyful: "It felt like receiving an award from one's longtime friends and family."

Sign-language Interpreters Rita Jo Scarcella and Karen Dwyer preparing to take their places prior to "curtain up" for ***The Miracle Worker***.

Creative Access goes from success to success—a TRIPOD open-captioned movie, a play, one event at a time—with a variety of accessible offerings every month. Every accessible event, every

Deaf performance, is another small (or not-so-small) victory. Says Finkle: "***The Miracle Worker*** (with two young Deaf actresses as a result of CA advocacy) is really a rich story, in my view, and the open-captioned screening of ***Michael***, at a *big mainstream theater*, was an exciting day, *with popcorn*, too!"

How did the fifth-anniversary celebration go? Finkle says: "It was quite wonderful. My Board of Directors really honored me in surprise commentaries filled with love and accolades! But the most moving of all was Abby . . . who suddenly appeared and began her 'sharing' with 'I want to tell you all about my Mom . . . ' All eyes of the 90 or so people present were on her for the duration. It was quite a wonderful day, with Deaf and hard-of-hearing couples celebrating their wedding anniversaries with us (34 years), birthdays (78 years), and even recent 'matchmaking' successes were present, i.e., people I had brought together in the course of getting to know them, and their stories, separately [or] through my personal contacts with them. REALLY wonderful feeling to see people establishing friendships and romantic relationships as a result of Creative Access's work!"

## Movie Access Coalition

**Member Organizations**

National Association of the Deaf (NAD)

Consumer Action Network (CAN)

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH)

Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA)

Alexander Graham Bell Association

American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)

Veterans Organization for the Hearing Impaired

Washington Area Group for the Hard of Hearing (WAGHOH)

## "Full steam ahead": Carol Finkle looks back (and forwards)

I am now seriously contemplating biting the proverbial bullet—to happily administer the needs and deeds of Creative Access full-time, full steam ahead (rather than continually trying to juggle pursuing my passion while holding down a full-time job). I must say, however, I feel and I hope I've done a pretty darn good job of infusing the organization with some vital signs (no pun intended!), in its first five years of life.

Creative Access's advocacy [was] born of my own personal refusal to accept the *status quo* in the case of deaf kids/families not being able to enjoy an American movie until and unless they were willing to wait months [for its release on home video] and sit at home, isolated, watching it with captions, while the rest of the world was on to the

Michelle Banks's performance of her one-woman show, ***Reflections of a Black Deaf Woman***, for Women's History Month, March 1997. The event was presented as part of Creative Access's initiative to showcase the skill, talent, and competence of Deaf performers. Banks performed to an appreciative audience of Deaf and hearing people, and spent time speaking with them after the show. To Banks's left is Lenore Pemberton, "voice performer." Naturally, all Creative Access events are bilingual.

next twenty films that had come out since! Etcetera.

Yeah, it's true, the movie-access-movement, if you will, began big-time with us, right here in Philly, with me making lots of noise and starting that pesky "PETITION TO THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION AND THEATER OWNERS OF AMERICA" back in 1993. Then, with the help of **DEAF LIFE's** publicity about the issue that rarely was noted in a strong, public venue, our first goal was reached. That was *for the national Deaf Community to take up the cause.* What I really wanted most at that point was to get the association of movie access out of a "local-issue mentality," and into a "national entitlement, empowerment" mental perspective. And the minute the NAD contacted me in '95, that first serious leap forward was accomplished. No longer was it Carol Finkle, Philadelphia, blah, blah, blah . . . it was now the NAD, SHHH, WAGHOH, Deaf Veterans, Speech and Hearing Foundation of Massachusetts, and on and on—young, old, and in-between, from every city and state in the nation. I sighed with delight when this happened.

It is now two years, one marvelously developed and strong "Movie Access Coalition" [see list of coalition members], and "up close and personal" meetings with top Hollywood execs later, that have brought us to the brink of "success." Of course, with "success" being a relative term—we know what it means.

I'm giving *everyone* fair warning: once the trial open-captioned screenings begin in neighborhood theaters in 5 or 6 centrally located cities around the nation, **EVERY deaf and hard-of-hearing person, every parent, friend, sibling, and family member needs to show up at the theaters!** If we don't, the movie studios and theater owners won't see the new $$$ revenue coming in . . . and **THEY WILL DROP THE WHOLE PROJECT LIKE A HOT POTATO!** (Well, it's been my baby for 5

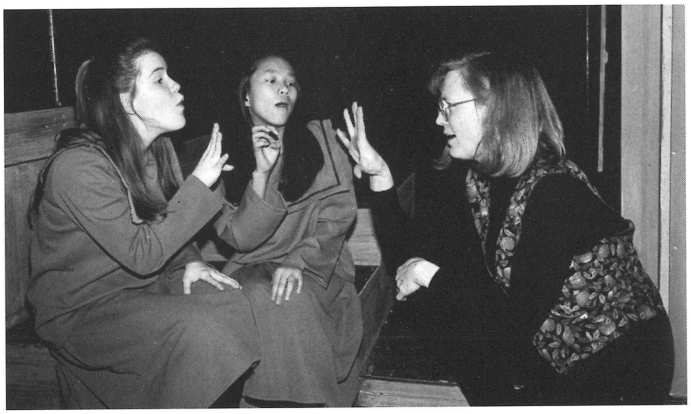
Yvonne Matiello smiling about being at United Artists' Riverview Plaza for the open-captioned screening of ***Michael*** on April 12, 1997. After 4 years of showing TRIPOD's open-captioned movies, Creative Access's advocacy succeeded in bringing the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community out for real popcorn, in a real movie theater.

Lillian Hoshauer, President of the Deaf-Hearing Communication Center, Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, celebrating 5 years of service in April '97, and Sherry Drolsberg, center, in the midst of a serious conversation after the co-sponsored presentation of Peter Cook at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf last February.

solid years now . . . I'm egging *everyone* on to get out to see those new movies as much as possible.)

But once the first press conference is held, and the first publicity goes out directly from the studios, and the theater owners (e.g., United Artists, which happens to be the largest chain of movie theaters in America), espousing an actual "commitment" to comply with the suggestion clearly written into the ADA when it was first signed by President Bush back in 1990, i.e., that movie studios would make, and theater owners would screen, some open-captioned versions of first-run current-title films in neighborhood movie theaters," there will be no turning back. And even better, no more us paying big bucks to rent an OC print of a movie to show one or two times—every month. And no more only being able to see that movie *if* we don't have other commitments that one day or weekend, or *if* we happen to be lucky enough to live near enough to a city where a non-profit organization was financially able to fork out the $300. And to find a theater space in which to show it, willing not to milk them for more $$$ . . . etc., etc., etc. Anyway, the bottom line, as always, will be believing it when we actually see it happening. I myself never *really* thought I would see us all going to the movies like first-class citizens in my lifetime, [to paraphrase] Mr(s). Arnold Adelman from Massachusetts, and Wm. Paschell from Maryland, who started screaming about this long before I did! But *heyyyyyyy* . . . looks like I may be wrong!!!!!

**"Not much seems to have changed over the 18 years of my own struggle to 'do the right thing . . . and just LET MY KIDS BE DEAF!'"**



Interpreter Karen Dwyer rehearsing with Laura and Kim, two young Deaf actresses hired to play the roles of deaf-blind students at the Perkins School for the Deaf and Blind in the Puttin' on the Ritz production of ***The Miracle Worker***, March, 1997. During the 6 weeks of rehearsals with the full cast, a sign-language interpreter was present at all times.

Well, I need to attend to my grant deadlines to gather the funds for all the other projects *re*

Carol Finkle with Joshua and Abigail at Josh's graduation from Gallaudet, 1986. "They showed me what they needed. Since then, I've tried to help them get some of it."

"access-to-the-arts" I'm phobic about: theater (we *still* have too many theaters saying "Sorry, we can't afford to make our plays accessible"); museums (exciting new "access-advocacy adaccomplishment" here is the pending first-time addition of captions to the IMAX/OMNIVERSE Theater showings at our world-famous Franklin Institute); and plans to begin our own "Captioning Station," to [set up] a captioned-video library of documentary films.

My first 20-year passion was focused on education issues—you know, things like the way parents had/have to choose between a deaf school and a good education for their kids—the ignorance of parents' making decisions for their deaf children because they know nothing about language acquisition, etc., and making their decisions on all the wrong set of questions and ideas, etc., etc., etc. Well, not much seems to have changed over the 18 years of my own struggle to "do the right thing . . . and just LET MY KIDS BE DEAF!" Hey, thank God we got our heads screwed on right about that . . . more or less "in time," although the kids never totally "make up" for those lost "critical language-learning years."

So my point is that I would be glad to share my lifelong experiences in every realm, with anyone who would like to hear them (groups, organizations, conventions, etc.). I have a perspective on every conceivable nuance of initially "ignorant" hearing parents raising deaf kids . . . but still, much of my perspective would still fall on literal "deaf" ears of hearing parents. They still just "don't get it" (*sighhhhh*), and probably never will.

Anyway . . . the reason I switched from education and mental-health-access advocacy, to the realm of the arts is exactly because of my need to get away from the gruelingly slow pace of visible, tangible progress in the former, *and the relatively immediate and totally joyful gratification of seeing my cultural-access projects become a reality*. After all, when I "succeed" in one of these projects, all we do is have the delightful experience of going to the movies, or to some wonderful Broadway show, together. "No big deal," you say? True, unless you have deaf kids!■

**Deaf Life** All photos courtesy of Carol Finkle/Creative Access

# Beyond the Envelope

(ONE COLUMNIST'S OPINION)

# Hold That Line!

A couple of years ago, a friend was telling me of an experience he had with a local deaf organization in his area. It seems that this particular deaf organization was having problems with a certain hearing person. The said hearing person got herself voted as the president of that organization. Changes followed her selection as a president, and most of them were not positive. For example, she would make decisions and neglect to inform the members about those decisions; board members were not given certain pieces of information essential to their responsibilities as board members; and so on. It was a mess.

The friend asked me for my opinion, and I told him that what she was doing wasn't ethical, and that the members should get together and do something about it. To make a long story short, the president was ousted from her position by the members, and the deaf vice president was chosen to be the president. My friend told me the "ending" of the story, and in that tale, he had talked with a female member of the organization about what had happened. She said "It's terrible that the president did all of those things, but she was a nice person." This struck my friend as strange, and he told her that a *nice* person did not do those things. She agreed, but kept waffling between her agreement that the things were horrible, and her assessment that the president was a "nice" person. He told her that she couldn't have it both ways.

It struck me that it wasn't the first time that I had heard something like this. I can remember many examples where hearing people had done things that weren't good for the deaf community, and deaf people would find themselves making excuses for those hearing people.

Let me illustrate that point with another story. Another friend of mine had a friend who worked for the Post Office. That particular Post Office happened to be full of hearing people who weren't too understanding about the workplace-related needs of deaf people. He made requests for a TTY, interpreters for meetings, and the like, which were repeatedly ignored. Finally, he spoke to a lawyer, who then filed a suit against that particular Post Office. Before the lawyer (or his assistant, I forget which) was due to appear at that Post Office for an inspection, the deaf worker saw his hearing co-workers frantically practicing on a TTY (which had been borrowed for the occasion), just so that they could demonstrate to the lawyer that they knew how to use a TTY. My friend, in telling me that story, said something to the effect that those hearing people couldn't be blamed because they didn't know the ADA. I disagreed with him, and told him that those hearing people showed enough presence of mind to try to cover their discriminatory actions. That showed a general awareness that what they had done to the deaf worker was discriminatory. They may not have known the ADA inside and out, but they did *know* that they weren't treating the deaf worker the same as other hearing workers.

My argument is that today's hearing people know enough about how to treat a person in a working environment, even if they don't know the law to the letter. They know that anything sexual is a no-no; discriminating against a person on the basis of gender/religion/handicap is a no-no; putting others down is a no-no, and so on. In making excuses for hearing people, deaf people often claim that those people aren't "educated." I disagree—I think that with the present era of

**After the hearing president was ousted from the deaf organization she had been abusing, a member told my friend: "It's terrible that the president did all of those things, but she was a nice person." This struck my friend as strange, and he told her that a *nice* person did not do those things . . . and that she couldn't have it both ways.**

instant news, e-mail, faxes, and so on, most hearing people have picked up a smattering of information on deaf people to the point where they can no longer be called "uneducated." The line between an "uneducated" hearing person and "educated" hearing person has grown much thinner and smaller.

If we are to excuse the guilty person on the basis of lack of education, I want to know just exactly what that line is. If a hearing person is aware that most deaf people need interpreters and a TTY to do their job, is that sufficient "education" for our purposes? I'm often amazed by how much the average hearing person knows. Very often they know *some* fingerspelling and *some* signs (the "ILY" sign is a good example).

How much education is an education? Where do we draw the line? When do we stop making excuses for hearing people on those grounds?

---

**Deaf Life** Michele Listisard, an alumna of MSSD and SUNY-Albany, now works as a Youth Programs Coordinator for the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). She is also the current scheduling agent for Miss Deaf America. When not working for the NAD, she can be found at those monthly meetings as a member of Gallaudet University's Institutional Review Board. Her husband, two dogs (one deaf Dalmatian and one hearing Husky mix), books, magazines, and Monty Python all are a big part of Michele's life and provide her with plenty of comic relief.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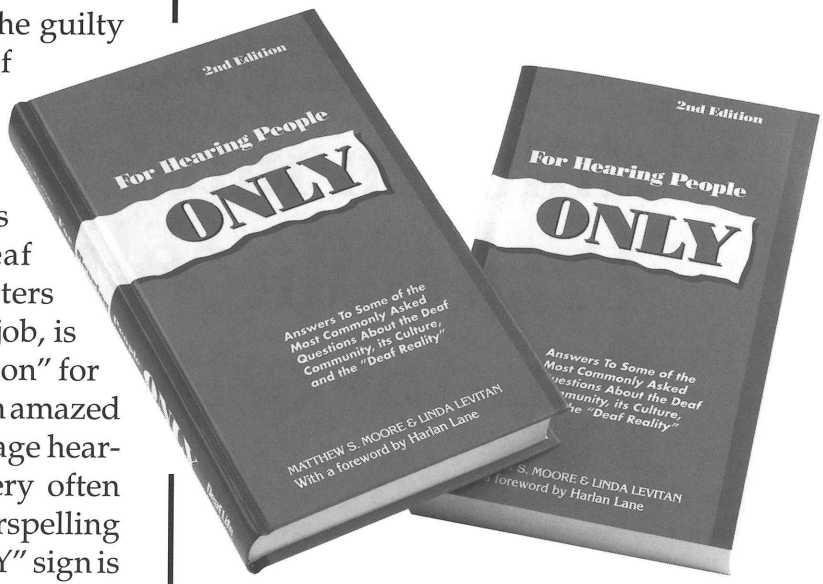
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READERS' RESPONSES

# Do ASL militants scare hearing parents of deaf children into choosing the oral/auditory approach?

## 45% Yes 50% No 5% Not sure

**NOT SURE**—Their tactics leave a lot to be desired, certainly. But hearing parents almost always come to us with their minds all but made up (usually not in our favor). So, one word, one look, and that's it—they run screaming in the other direction and we get blamed for it. So I feel that the cards aren't stacked fairly and we are expected to roll out the red carpet, be on our best behavior, etc., for the parent's benefit. We're supposed to sugarcoat our approach and come up with acronyms like "DASL" (dazzle)!!! I have to wonder about those people who base their decisions on how they are treated, how the approach is presented and marketed to them, etc., rather than taking the time to think things through logically. This is a deaf child's life we are talking about, not a product that we are buying or selling!

**YES**—I believe that some ASL militants really set a bad example to hearing parents, where they decided that they don't want their deaf kids be like those ASL militants when they grow up. BUT in the end, parents will realize that their kids will eventually be a part of the Deaf community. I have known several Deaf oralists, who grew up with oral training, had abandoned oral as a method of communication and started learning ASL, which benefitted them greatly. I have known some angry deaf oralists who felt deprived of their identity as a deaf person. Here is my message to several ASL militants: COOL IT! SET A GOOD EXAMPLE! PROVE ORALIST WRONG! DO THAT IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER! Parents need to see a real Deaf person doing the work and be able to be an active part of society. When are we going to come up with proof that Deaf kids really benefit more from using ASL?

**NO**—No, it's more of Oralist Militants who scared many parents into making their deaf children taking oral/auditory training. Oralists gave parents wrong informations about our community. I have seen how they operated. They just want to deny all Deaf kids the enjoyment of using ASL and learn about life, because they were denied that enjoyment. Thought you might like to know that a large number of Oralists use sign language in private.

Readers have asked us how many "Deafview" responses we get every month.
This month's total: 178

DeafLife

READERS' VIEWPOINT

# DEAFVIEW

**DEAF LIFE** would like to know what you think about major issues affecting the Deaf community. Fax your response to (716) 442-6371, E-mail us at deaflife@deaflife.com, **or** send it to us at Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.

## Is the cochlear implant destroying the future of the Deaf community?

❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not sure

Comments: _____

_____

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Deadline: July 15,1997

Visit us at: **http://www.deafview.com**

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Please respond promptly so that we can publish the results in the August issue.

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# IN MEMORIAM
# MARILYN J. TURK

**Marilyn Joanne Turk**, a lifelong advocate for Deaf and hard-of-hearing people, died on Saturday, May 31 after a 15-month bout with cancer. She was 66 years old, and lived in Frederick, Maryland with her beloved husband, Dr. **Frank R. Turk**.

Mrs. Turk served as secretary of the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, and contributed countless hours of service to the Deaf communities in her native Minnesota, metropolitan Washington, D.C., South Dakota, and North Carolina, and on the national level with the NAD and the Jr. NAD.

Besides Dr. Turk, she is survived by a sister, **Ginger Williams** of Silverton, Colorado; three children: **Dennis Grenell** of Maple Hill, Minnesota; **Timothy Grenell** of Stillwater, Minnesota, and **Sheila Deane** of Westminster, Maryland; and eight grandchildren: **Christina**, **Monica**, **Alexander**, and **Sandra Grenell** of Maple Hill; **Katie** and **Lindsay Grenell** of Stillwater; and **Brett** and **Matt Deane** of Westminster.

A memorial service was held on June 9 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in Chevy Chase, Maryland. A second memorial service is being held in July at Charles Thompson Memorial Hall in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The family asked that memorial donations be made to the either of the following:

National Association of the Deaf Youth Program
814 Thayer Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Charles Thompson Memorial Hall Fund
1824 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

## "A GREAT DAY FOR AMERICAN EDUCATION"

*Statement of Secretary of Education **Richard W. Riley** on the Congressional passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, May 14, 1997*

I commend the Senate for today's strong, bipartisan vote (98 to 1) in support of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The vote, like the vote in the House (420 to 3), speaks for itself, and reflects the successful effort of many parties to find common ground on difficult and sometimes contentious issues. Members on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, have worked very hard with the Administration to make this agreement possible. This effort to improve education of children with disabilities has

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## DEAF LIFE news material: Our Policy

### What we want:

Send us anything you think is appropriate. Items should be of national, not just local, interest. Typed articles with photos preferred. Photos, etc., will be returned on request. We reserve the right to reject or edit any material.

### When we need it:

Please send material by the first of the month for publication the following month, with a 10-day grace period. (Items for November 1992 publication, for example, must be sent before October 10.) The earlier, the better. We will not accept any story more than 1 month old.

### Where to send it:

For regular **first-class mail**, please send to our P.O. box number: **DEAF LIFE** , c/o MSM Productions, Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.

For **Express Mail** and **Federal Express**, please send to our office address: 1095 Meigs Street, Rochester, NY 14620.

### No "free advertising!"

We are pleased to publish any organization or group's news and announcements, but will not provide "free advertising." We define "free advertising" as pushing a product. Any for-profit group, service, agency, company, or person who wishes to promote something in **DEAF LIFE Plus** is encouraged to place an ad. We will be happy to send you an ad-rate schedule on request. Nonprofit groups who advertise will get a special discount.

Anyone who sends us a press release incorporating {including} "free advertising" (such as announcing a new product or paid service) should include a "token" payment of $50.00. Warning: Any "promotional" press release sent to us without payment will be considered for publication—but we will omit {cut out} prices and addresses.

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the full support of the Administration, and I expect the President to sign the legislation into law in the immediate future.

I am pleased by the strong focus on teaching and learning, and the balanced effort to protect the safety of all children, while maintaining the essential rights and protections for children with disabilities. I believe the new emphasis on mediation will give parents of disabled children and school authorities a new, constructive, and positive way to resolve conflicts.

This is a great day for American education and a great day for the millions of children—disabled and non-disabled—who will now have greater opportunities to learn to their full potential. ➤

## CALIFORNIANS GET A CHOICE—IN TRS

Sprint and AT&T will be providing the first multivendor TRS in California, the first of its kind in the nation. TTY users in California will soon have a choice in telephone service, just as all statewide voice-telephone users do.

On June 11, California's Public Utilities Commission voted to allow multiple companies to enter the TRS market. The PUC's decision came after it got numerous complaints from thousands of people about poor service from MCI Communications. Since last October, TTY users and their families and friends have lobbied the PUC to do something about the relay service, which has been handled exclusively by MCI. They complained about interruptions, disconnections, misspellings, and unanswered calls.

The competitive arrangement between Sprint and AT&T is made possible by a substantial increase in the budget for the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program, which is funded by the PUC.

As **Cathleen Ferraro**, Staff Writer for the **Sacramento Bee**, noted in a June 12 article, "PUC expands competition in telephone help for the deaf":

> Some problems have been fixed, but it wasn't enough to curb one commissioner's scathing remarks.
>
> "Here is a market where (MCI) is the single service provider to a population with special needs, and instead of using technology to serve those who rely on it most, MCI appears to be abusing its customers and exploiting its market power," Commissioner **Henry M. Duque** said at a PUC meeting in San Francisco Wednesday [June 11]. "I found this company slow to respond to letters from users or myself, but quick to threaten litigation."
>
> **Les Kumagai**, an MCI spokesman in Los Angeles, would not comment on the PUC decision or the criticisms of his company's relay service in California.
>
> MCI has handled the contract since last year, when it won a bidding war against other major telecommunications firms, including Sprint, which previously provided the special phone service statewide for five years.
>
> Now it looks as if Sprint will get some of its old business back. **James Fisher,** a Sprint spokesman in Washington, D.C., estimated the company could again offer relay telephone service in California possibly as early as September.
>
> An executive with the DDTP said other companies could offer service, too, but so far no others have committed themselves. Once other providers are operating, the deaf and hard-of-hearing will have a choice of numbers to use.
>
> Unlike conventional phone service where customers generally select one telecommunications company, the new DDTP service will allow disabled people to flip-flop between phone companies with each call they make.
>
> "They can use any 800 (prefix) telephone number, switching from one (company) to the next," explained **Shelley Bergum**, executive director at DDTP.
>
> Calling rates for consumers aren't expected to increase.
>
> Sprint, which operated a relay center in Sacramento employing 454 workers, does not immediately plan to reopen here. Instead, said Fisher, California relay calls will be routed to operators in other states.

✏ Thanks to **Scott Hostetler**, M.S., Management Information System Manager, Goodwill Industries of Long Beach, for E-mailing us the text of the Bee article.

### Sprint's response

On June 11, **Don Teague**, Vice President and General Manager, Sprint Government Systems Division, issued an official statement:

"Sprint commends the California Public Service Commission on its action June 11 that would allow additional carriers to provide telecommunications-relay service for deaf, hard-of-hearing, speech-disabled and other customers within the state. Pending Sprint's complete legal review of the PSC action, we intend to again provide our high-quality TRS service to the state's citizens as early as this September.

"When Sprint service resumes, customers will be provided toll-free numbers to contact our agents directly. The relay service is paid for by the state, and individual users are billed only for long-distance charges they incur.

"Sprint, which serves 18 states and the federal government as the nation's leader in TRS service, provided high-quality relay service to Californians for 5 years, until October, 1996, when the contract was turned over by the state to another provider [MCI], which had submitted a lower bid. After receiving a large number of service complaints, the California Public Service Commission has taken steps to allow multiple providers to offer service in competition. Sprint is confident this decision will result in a great benefit to deaf, hard-of-hearing, and speech-disabled Californians, who have

spoken out strongly in favor of Sprint's highly trained agents and efficient service. We look forward to working with them again."

✏ Contributed by **Mike Baer**, Program Manager

## "FATHER OF THE INTERNET" JOINS GALLY BOARD

On May 16, **Glenn Anderson**, Chairman of the Gallaudet University Board of Trustees, announced the appointment of Dr. **Vinton G. Cerf** to the Board.

Dr. Cerf earned his Bachelor's degree from Stanford University and received his Master's and Ph.D. from the University of California of Los Angeles. For years he served as the founding president of the Internet Society. Indeed, he is often called the "Father of the Internet." He has served as vice president of the Corporation for National Research Initiatives and vice president of MCI Digital Information Services. He is now the senior vice president of Internet Architecture and Engineering Group for MCI Communications Corporation in Reston, Virginia, overseeing the design and development of the network architecture that enables MCI to deliver a combination of data, information, voice, and video for businesses and consumers.

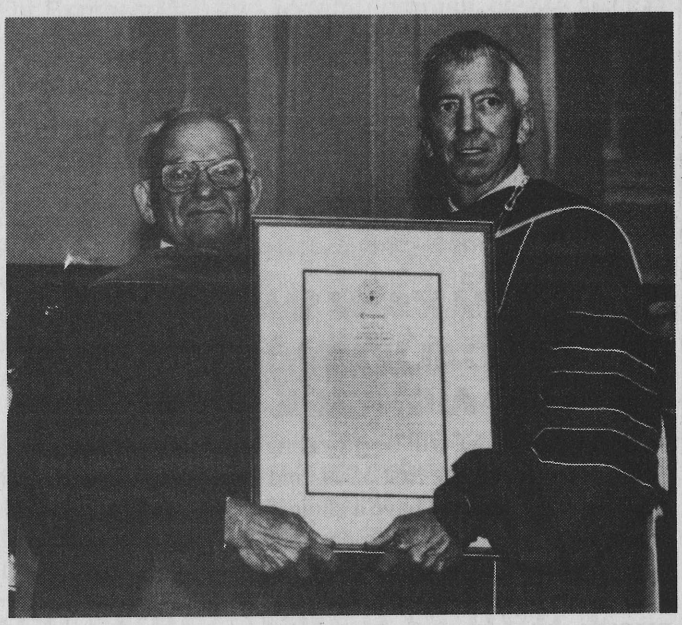
He is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the Association for Computing, the American Association for Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has received numerous awards and commendations in connection with his work on the Internet.

With the addition of Dr. Cerf, Gallaudet's Board of Trustees now comprises 10 deaf and hard-of-hearing, and 10 hearing members. (Strictly speaking, Dr. Cerf is more hard-of-hearing than deaf, but his wife, **Sigrid**, profoundly deaf for 30 years, recently received an Advanced Bionics Clarion cochlear implant, which she has been enjoying tremendously.

"I am delighted that Dr. Cerf will be joining the Board of Trustees," said Dr. Anderson. "His knowledge, expertise, and technological achievements will be an asset to the Board as we vigorously guide this University to the 21st century."

## BESTOWING THE HONORS

On Commencement Day, May 16, Dr. **Frank R. Turk**, **Gilbert L. Delgado**, **Thomas Olof Berg**, and **Franklin Abraham Sonn** received honorary doctorates from Gallaudet University. Here are the full texts of their citations.



**Dr. Frank Turk receives his citation from Gallaudet President I. King Jordan. (Note magnified-projection and real-time-captioning video-screen behind them.)**

Citation of
Frank R. Turk
*on being presented the degree of*
DOCTOR OF LAWS
*Honoris Causa*

During the recent volunteerism summit, the President of the United States reminded the nation that while government has a fundamental role in assuring the safety and well-being of its citizens, we are never more a community than when one person reaches out to another.

Today we celebrate Dr. Frank R Turk's exceptional lifelong commitment to service to the deaf community. After getting his first lessons in community service growing up in Hibbing, Minnesota, during the Great Depression, this 1952 Gallaudet alumnus quickly translated those early experiences into working with deaf children. As an energetic teacher, a thoughtful counselor, and a "no excuses" mentor, he encouraged several generations of subsequent deaf leaders who, in turn, passed along his messages to the deaf children in their care—"Deaf can do it!" "You are my pioneers!" "You can be a leader if you think you can!"

When Dr. Turk was recruited to lead the Junior National Association of the Deaf in 1964, it was an organization that had only 15 loosely-knit chapters. Sixteen years later when he stepped down, more than 200 chapters were thriving. To all of the children in all of those chapters, he taught leadership by emphasizing community service and deaf people helping

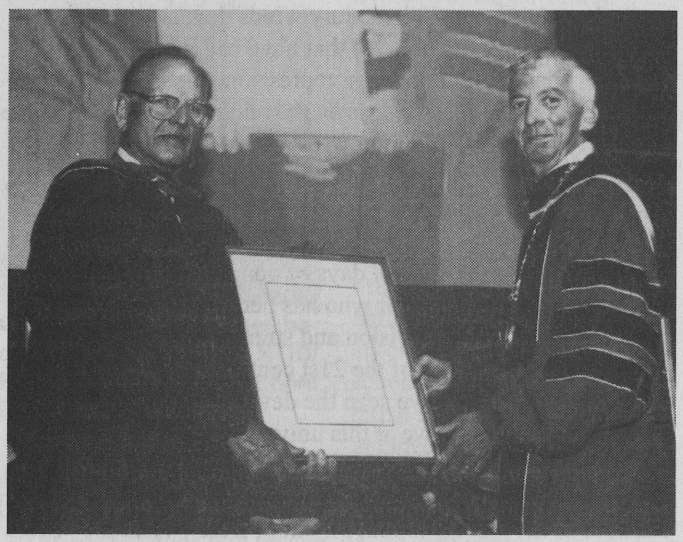
themselves. Dr. Jack R. Gannon has suggested that the "seeds of the 1988 Deaf President Now movement may well have been sown years earlier at Frank Turk's Youth Leadership Camps."

While serving Gallaudet University in a number of teaching and administrative capacities for 37 years, Frank Turk earned his doctorate in counseling and student development at American University in 1983. Then, when most hardworking people would have considered retirement, he became superintendent of the South Dakota School for the Deaf and two years later director of the North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. So effective was his advocacy for deaf and hard-of-hearing people with the state legislature that North Carolina State Representative **Theresa Esposito** has described him as "her mentor . . . a bright star."

With his support, hundreds of parents of deaf children in North Carolina formed SPEAK, the Statewide Parents' Education 8c Advocacy for Kids Program. North Carolina Governor **James B. Hunt** boasted that Frank Turk helped North Carolina become a "national model for quality educational and human services to deaf and hard-of-hearing people" and personally credited him for increasing the budget of the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Frank Turk is the only deaf person in North Carolina history to be named "State Manager of the Year."

In honoring Dr. Frank R. Turk today for a lifetime of service to the Deaf Community, we echo the words of a deaf child who wrote after attending leadership camp: "Thank you, Frank Turk. I left camp feeling good about myself. I have pride in the Deaf Community. You helped me feel that I could be a leader."

With great pride we now bestow upon Dr. Frank R. Turk, an outstanding servant of the Deaf Community and an exceptional friend to deaf children, the degree Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*.



**Dr. Thomas Olof Berg receives his citation from Dr. Jordan .**

Citation of
Thomas Olof Berg
*on being presented the degree of*
DOCTOR OF LAWS
*Honoris Causa*

Thomas Olof Berg has been a gold-medal winner in the eyes of his alma mater and of the many alumni for whom he was a coach, a mentor, and an inspiration.

In any discussion about track and field at Gallaudet, it is his name that comes immediately to mind. During his undergraduate years at Gallaudet, and during the three decades he served as track coach, Thomas Berg almost single-handedly made track a prominent sport on Kendall Green.

During his college days, Mr. Berg participated in the hurdles, long jump, mile run, and javelin. During his junior year in 1943, he set a Gallaudet record in the javelin throw that stood for 35 years. When Mr. Berg accepted a position at the Maryland School for the Deaf in 1946, he reestablished the track competition. The following year, soon after he arrived at the Idaho School for the Deaf, he formed a track team.

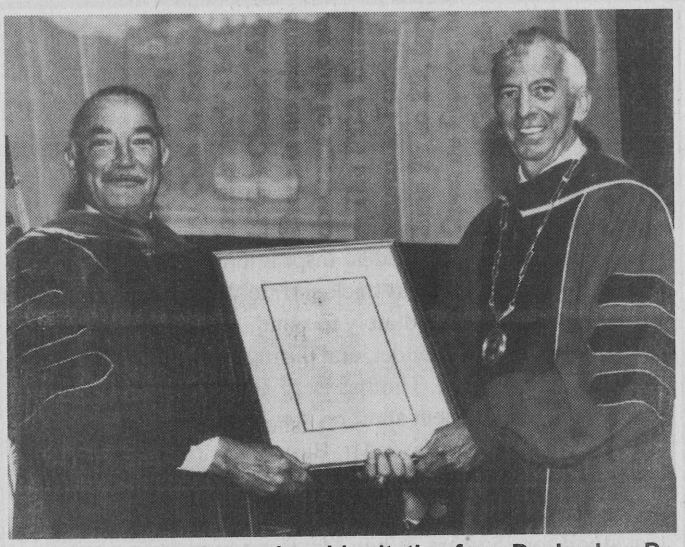
His devotion to excellence in track led him to become the head coach five times in the World Games for the Deaf. During the 1981 games in Cologne, West Germany, he was the track-and-field coordinator. Many athletes who won medals in track and field at the Games were products of his careful grooming. But more important than trophies are the special relationships that developed between Tom and his athletes—relationships so special that athletes looked up to him as their brother and their role model.

Although Thomas Berg and track are synonymous, he was equally respected and admired during his 21-year tenure as assistant dean of students at Gallaudet. A compassionate and understanding person, he knew how to comfort and counsel students. His office was always open to anyone who wanted to see him. When he became director of the Financial Aid Office, his office remained open. Countless Gallaudet graduates stayed in school and owe their success to Mr. Berg's efforts on their behalf. He not only showed them how to get financial support, he made sure they had emotional and academic support as well.

Gallaudet University takes great pride in honoring Thomas Olof Berg as a devoted athlete, dedicated employee, and successful and compassionate coach and mentor by proclaiming him Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*.

Citation of
Gilbert Louis Delgado
*on being presented the degree of*
DOCTOR OF LAWS
*Honoris Causa*

Today, we honor one of our own: Dr. Gilbert Louis Delgado, Class of 1954, who has devoted his entire professional life to the field of deafness and deaf people, and done



**Dr. Gilbert Delgado receives his citation from Dr. Jordan. Dr. Delgado was also the speaker at the Graduate School's Hooding Ceremony.**

so in ways that are singularly distinguished. In a word, he has done it all.

Dr. Delgado is a teacher. He began his career as a teacher and today, in retirement, he continues to teach at a local community college.

He is an administrator. Early in his career, he was offered the opportunity to serve as principal at a large and prestigious high school for deaf students. He quickly gained the respect and loyalty of a faculty who were older and more experienced than he. When he moved to Washington in 1964 to administer an important federal program related to education of deaf students—Media Services and Captioned Films—he learned how to get the job done by Cutting the proverbial government "red tape."

After five years with the government, Dr. Delgado became dean of the Graduate School and assistant vice president at Gallaudet University. During his 14-year tenure, graduate programs at Gallaudet grew and prospered. One of those new programs offered a doctoral degree in educational administration that was academically rigorous but provided a deafness-friendly environment.

Dr. Delgado has a world view and has done as much as any person in the United States to encourage, support, and improve both education and welfare of deaf people in ocher countries. While at Gallaudet, his multilingual skills and knowledge of the field of deafness, along with his teaching and management skills, contributed greatly to international outreach activities.

During his distinguished career, Dr. Delgado has continued to improve his knowledge and professional skills. Through extensive research and publications, he has shared his knowledge with the larger professional community and the world. In 1988, Dr. Delgado, a 10th-generation New Mexican, was appointed superintendent of the New Mexico School for the Deaf, where he served until his recent retirement.

Greatness is not measured only in terms of deeds, but also by what is inside the person. Gil Delgado's unerring sense of values and commitment to his family, his students, his colleagues, and his community reveal the fabric of which he is made.

It is with great pride and pleasure that Gallaudet University welcomes back a most distinguished alumnus, Gilbert Louis Delgado, and confers upon him the degree Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa.

**Dr. Franklin Abraham Sonn beams with delight as he accepts his citation from Dr. Jordan.**

Citation of
His Excellency
The South African Ambassador to the United States
Franklin Abraham Sonn
*on being presented the degree of*
DOCTOR OF LAWS
*Honoris Causa*

As the tumultuous 20th century winds down, we bear witness to events and policies that have had worldwide repercussions. Totalitarianism, repression, and apartheid policies have all failed to destroy the unquenchable worldwide dreams of freedom. From the wreckage of these systems has come countless stories of human courage, as evidenced by the distinguished international figure we honor today.

In this educational setting begun with President Lincoln's signature during the darkest days of our nation's last century, we salute a fellow educator who has personally triumphed in *this* century, and whose vision and strength stand ready to embrace the challenges of the 21st century.

As educators who have seen the devastating effects of prejudice in our time, we at this university can relate to the unending desire for equality on all levels. Growing up near Queenstown and Cape Town our honoree, nurtured by the strength of his parents—both of whom were educators—saw the outlines of the dream manifest itself through learning. In a long career at all levels of educational process, he passed the

baton to many young men and women whose accomplishments will forever shine in his memory.

A graduate of the University of Western Cape and the University of South Africa, a principal of Spes Bona High School, which produced top graduates in competition with the entire nation, a community activist who reached out to all segments of society, rector of the Peninsula Technikon, CEO of the largest black-led company on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, a patron of youth groups, and former personal advisor to President **Jimmy Carter**, who monitored the Zambian elections, Ambassador Sonn stands before us today as the genuine personification of his nation and its heroic leader, **Nelson Mandela**. The Ambassador's profound knowledge of his people contributes a unique and significant dimension to diplomatic and international understanding, and the world community has gained a gentleman, an educator, and a man of uncommon wisdom and perspective.

Today Gallaudet University—founded in the 19th century—honors a distinguished son of the 20th century whose continuing presence and influence will have a marked impact on the 21st century. With great pride we bestow upon His Excellency Dr. Franklin Abraham Sonn, the first member of his race to serve as South African Ambassador to the United States and an exceptional human being and public servant, the degree Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*.

Gallaudet University
May 16, 1997

## "THE BEST & THE BRIGHTEST"

**Clare Boothe Luce: her bequests now benefits NTID/ RIT women in nontraditional fields.**

To encourage women to pursue careers in science and engineering, the Henry Luce Foundation has awarded $93,000 to support three 2-year Clare Boothe Luce Undergraduate Scholarships at NTID.* The presence of Clare Boothe Luce scholars on the RIT campus will significantly strengthen NTID's ability to continue to attract and retain the best and brightest deaf and hard-of-hearing women from across the country. These scholars will further distinguish the science and engineering programs at RIT as the leaders in the movement to advance deaf and hard-of-hearing women in silence and engineering careers.†

The scholarships will be awarded to deaf and hard-of-hearing women matriculated in the last two years of a baccalaureate-degree program in science or engineering at RIT. Qualified students must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.2 or better out of 4.0 as well as 3.2 or better in their principal fields of study. Successful candidates also will demonstrate evidence of leadership qualities through participation in campus activities as well as definitive career goals in their fields of study, especially the pursuit of graduate education.

This new partnership between the Henry Luce Foundation and NTID will further advance each organization's commitment to benefit current and future generations of women in the fields of science and engineering, where women continue to be under-represented.

**Clare Boothe Luce**, who established the Clare Boothe Luce Program for Women in Science and Engineering through a bequest, was the wife of **Henry R. Luce**, co-founder of Time Inc. (now part of the Time Warner conglomerate), which publishes **TIME LIFE**, and **Fortune** magazines. She outlived Henry Luce by 20 years, and was a celebrity in her own right, a Renaissance woman, a symbol of women's accomplishments and potential, whose long and colorful career spanned seven decades in the professions of journalism, politics, theater, and diplomacy. She was a writer with a gift for satire, an associate and managing editor of **Vogue** and **Vanity Fair**, a successful Broadway playwright (three of her plays were made into movies), politician, and ambassador.

For more information about the scholarships, contact Kathleen Martin at ☎(716) 475-6461 (TTY/Voice) or ❖KMM2733@rit.edu (E-mail).

*Just for the record, NTID's full name is the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and it's one of 8 colleges of Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

† See "A boost for (nontraditional) women," lead story in the July 1996 "News Briefs." Gallaudet University received grants for two 2-year undergraduate scholarships last year.

## "WHAT MORE COULD I ASK FOR?"

**NTID researcher recognized for accomplishments**

Dr. **Susan Foster** is one of NTID's most well-respected researchers. Her work on the topics of educational and career access for deaf people has earned her nationwide recognition, and she has published two books on the subject: **Deaf Students in Postsecondary Education**, co-edited with Dr. **Gerard Walter**; and **Working with Deaf People: Accessibility and Accommodation in the Workplace**. Both were published in 1992.

This January, Foster added another feather to her cap when she received the 1996-97 Phi Delta Kappa Award for Research from the organization's Rochester chapter in recognition of her "long-term contributions, significant accomplish-

ments, and demonstrated potential for future service." In introducing her to receive the award, NTID Dean **James DeCaro** noted, "Susan's work is unique in postsecondary education. Phi Delta Kappa has made a truly outstanding choice in recognizing Susan and her work."

This is not the first time that Foster, an associate professor, has been recognized by her colleagues. In 1991, she received the Award of Excellence from NTID's Deaf Professional Group. That award recognized her "demonstrated commitment to the interests and goals of deaf professionals."

Foster has been at NTID since 1984. She began her career as a research associate and moved to the center for postsecondary career studies in the late 1980s. She currently works in the Department of Educational and Career Research. Over the years, she has been a leader and team player in several of NTID's most important research projects, including studies related to deaf people in the workplace and the Americans with Disabilities Act; how deaf and hearing students interact with each other; the partnership between students and teachers in their classes; and the effects of mainstreaming deaf students. Royalties from both of her successful books have been donated to support the **Robert Panara** Scholarship Fund at NTID.

Foster and fellow NTID faculty member **Jack Slutzky** this year received an $8,000 Provost's Productivity Grant to conduct a one-year research project on producing captioned videotapes for classroom use.

While Foster graciously accepts the various honors and awards that come her way, she clearly is motivated by the potential of her future research projects, particularly two in which she presently is involved. The first, a team project she is working on with the NTID Special Institute Project Group on Access, is looking at strategies for mainstreaming deaf students enrolled in the other colleges of RIT.

Nearly 10 years have passed since NTID last researched the extent to which deaf students have access to RIT classes. Has student access to communication and classroom information improved in the past decade? Are instructors and students using new strategies for access and communication? With approximately 400 deaf students enrolling each quarter in classes with their hearing peers, answers to these questions should provide a revealing look at the status of mainstreamed education at RIT.

Foster's second project, "Deaf Professionals in Supervisory Roles: Vertical Mobility in the Workplace," will look at NTID alumni who have been or are supervisors of hearing people. Foster is collaborating with fellow researcher **Janet McLeod-Gallinger** on this project.

Says Foster, "Research has shown that promotion is a challenge for deaf people. Our purpose in this study is to determine the characteristics and circumstances of NTID alumni who have become managers."

Foster and McLeod-Gallinger have found 25 alumni willing to be part of the project. The results, Foster hopes, will be used to develop curricula and programs designed to enhance opportunities for deaf people to move into supervisory or management positions in their places of employment.

Foster is a member of ADARA, the American Educational Research Association, the American Sociological Association, the NAD, the New York State Association of Educators of the Deaf, the Society for Disability Studies, and the Society for Applied Anthropology (Fellow status). She also is Associate Editor of the **Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education.**

"I've been very fortunate to have a job that I love and great people to work with," Foster says. "Feedback from deaf and hearing people in the field suggests that my contributions have been useful; what more could I ask for?"

**—Kathleen S. Smith**

## FRESHMAN RETENTION, DROPOUT PREVENTION

On June 4, Dr. **Vincent Tinto**, Distinguished Professor of Education and Sociology at Syracuse University, highlighted a day-long educational symposium, *Learning Communities: Impact on Teaching and Learning*, at NTID.

Dr. Tinto has carried out research and written extensively on higher education, particularly student retention and the impact of learning communities on student growth and attainment. He is author of a theory of student-leaving that is widely recognized as the benchmark by which research on student attrition° is judged. His current research focuses on the impact of learning communities on the academic achievements of first-year students in differing educational settings and on the character of doctoral persistence in differing fields of study.

The symposium also featured presentations and discussions led by RIT faculty and staff members on issues researched at NTID regarding student retention, diverse learning communities, and cooperative education. All sessions were free, open to the public, and (of course) included real-time captioning and ASL interpreters.

**attrition**: erosion; disintegration; wearing away. Here, large numbers dropping out.

## THINKING (AND OUTPUTTING) BIG

To support the development of electronic-publishing skills at the world's largest technical-training program for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, Graphic Enterprises of Ohio, Inc. recently donated a unique large-format printer.

The Graphic Setter 1824C, a digital printer used to output documents up to 18 x 24 inches in size, was contributed to NTID's High Technology Center for Electronic Publishing and Printing. "The donation of the Graphic Setter 1824C provides students with access to large-format, high-resolution output, which will enhance and extend their skills in producing publications up to 18-by-24 inches," said **Michael Kleper**, Professor and Industry Liaison for the NTID High Technology Center. "[It] will provide students with skills in

building large-format publications, and the capability to print them without tiling pages together or printing them in reduced sizes. The printer will be the only device of its kind at the Center."

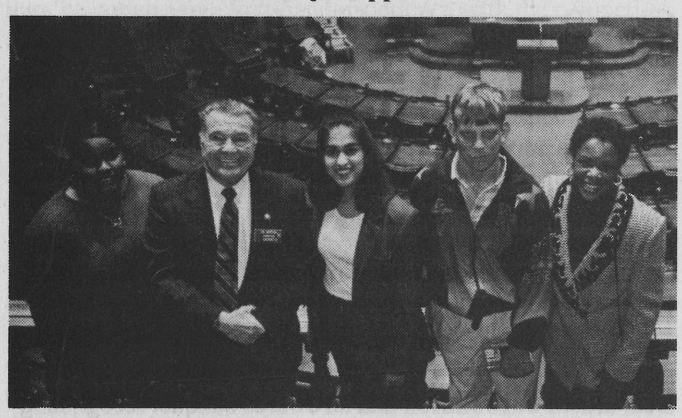
The Center is totally supported by industry contributions, which approached $2.5 million as of April 1997. These contributions make possible the preparation of deaf students in numerous majors, including electronic publishing and printing, applied art and computer graphics, and imaging technology. Many of the students go on to find employment in areas related to electronic publishing, such as desktop publishing, digital scanning, and digital proofing.

The Center is a unique electronic environment where learning and research activities are conducted in imaging and digital-publishing technologies. As such, it provides students with access to technologies that are not universally available in the technical laboratories of academic programs because of the high cost. The environment is totally digital and contrasts with other laboratories that use more conventional production processes.

Graphic Enterprises, based in North Canton, Ohio, in business since 1970, manufactures copying and printing equipment and also develops prepress software solutions and services.

# WANTED: A CAREER THAT WORKS

**A pilot program at DeKalb College introduces deaf students to job opportunities**



**As part of DeKalb College's Career Mentoring Project, a pilot program designed to make deaf and hard-of-hearing students more familiar with career opportunities and demands, Georgia State Senator Joe Burton, second from left, led students on a tour of the Georgia State Capitol this spring. Pictured with Senator Burton, from left to right, are students Tanya Hall, Durkhy Nassery, and John Laethem as well as Mavis Clark, a counselor in DeKalb College's Center for Disability Services.** (Photo: Lamar Bates, DeKalb College)

As a child, **Durkhy Nassery** considered a career as a CIA agent because she wanted to travel all over the world. She also thought about being a construction worker because she liked working outdoors.

**Tanya Hall** planned to emulate° one of her teachers and become a special education instructor.

Though he couldn't really decide what he wanted to do when he grew up, **John Laethem's** parents always assured him that he could be whatever he wanted.

Three fairly typical scenarios in response to the query: "When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?" But as these three DeKalb College students, who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, prepare to make final decisions about their career options, they are participating in a program that is unique—but perhaps needs to be more typical.

The Career Mentoring Project, designed as a pilot program during the previous winter and spring quarters, was developed to provide deaf and hard-of-hearing students with a greater knowledge of and access to the world of work. Six students participated in visits to various employment sites, including the Internal Revenue Service, Goodwill Industries, Spelman College, Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, Randstad Staffing Services, the Georgia State Capitol, and Georgia State Supreme Court.

The initiative° for the program, says **Lisa Fowler**, Director of DeKalb's Center for Disability Services (CDS), came from the Special Student Services Advisory Committee, a community-based group of individuals concerned about educational and employment opportunities for people with hearing loss. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the CDS. "The committee expressed a deeper interest in working with students," says **Mavis Clark**, CDS counselor for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. "They invited students to come to their places of employment and see the kinds of job opportunities available."

### Employer education

The goals of the Career Mentoring Project are two-fold, according to Dr. **Cynthia Ashby**, Advisory Board member and Superintendent of the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf.

"Students have an opportunity to sample and experience different on-the-job opportunities," she says. "They get a better idea of whether their goals are compatible with their interests. They get to taste the market and see what's out there.

"At the same time, we also want to open the eyes of employers so that they see how easy it is to employ individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing."

Fowler agrees that there is a strong need to educate employers about the kinds of accommodations necessary to employ workers with disabilities. "The ADA has really been a double-edged sword," she notes. "The negative side is that it frightens employers, who see making accommodations as some monumental feat. They don't realize that many accommodations can be made easily and inexpensively."

### Real-world choices

During visits to the IRS at peak tax-filing time and to the

office of Senator **Joe Burton** at the State Capitol as well as to the other sites, students toured facilities and learned about the various jobs available within each organization. For example, at the Capitol, in addition to being a senator or representative, other career possibilities include lobbyist, ombudsman, researcher, clerk, secretary, photographer, and aide. At Goodwill Industries, students took an interest and skills-assessment inventory.

Nassery, 20, from Stone Mountain, who now wants to be a history teacher for deaf students, decided to participate in the Career Mentoring Project because "I wanted to broaden my mind before making any final decisions about my career. This program is helping me to know more about what kinds of jobs are out there, what's going on in the real world."

Fowler feels that the program was "a real eye-opener" for students, who became more aware of the kind of training needed for various jobs and of what it is like to actually do certain jobs all day.

Each quarter, the CDS serves about 300 students with various disabilities; about 34 of those students have a hearing loss. Next year, CDS plans to offer the Career Mentoring Project to students with various disabilities.

Programs like the Career Mentoring Project, says Fowler, provide "a missing link" for students attempting to make the transition from college to work. Such career-oriented efforts can be important to all students, and especially to those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing or have another disability. Before attending college, many deaf students may have been isolated, sheltered, or pigeonholed, she says.

"My experience," concurs CDS' Clark, "is that throughout their educational development, many deaf students have not been made aware of the choices they can make. All their life, they've had someone telling them what to do or what not to do. It's not until they are in college that they really begin to learn to make choices for themselves. My job is to expose them to the wide variety of choices out there."

**Background:** DeKalb College, part of the University System of Georgia, is an associate degree-granting institution with five locations throughout the greater Atlanta area.

—**Lynn Bohlman DeWilde**

**initiative**: motivation; "push;" first step.
**emulate**: copy out of admiration; do likewise.

## "TO AIM EVEN HIGHER"

**Pamela R. Linza** of Lakeville, New York, an assistant professor at NTID and a Deaf mentor to her students, has been named to the Board of Directors at Rochester School for the Deaf.

As a member of NTID's Liberal Arts Support Team since 1991, Linza provides instruction in writing, with intensive teacher-student conferences, to deaf and hard-of-hearing students. In that role, she as been an instructor in an ASL pilot program at Irondequoit High School.

She earned an Associate degree in Medical Record Technology from NTID in 1982, and majored in Education and English at Gallaudet College/University, where she received her a Bachelor's degree in 1986. She received her Master's degree in Deaf Education at University of Rochester in 1988. She'll be doing further Master's-degree work in English at Brockport State University this summer.

From 1987 to 1988, Linza was a lab instructor in NTID's English Learning Center. In 1988 she also was a student teacher in a program for the HI program at East High school. From 1988 to 1991, she was an instructor in Development Studies at SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf in Big Spring, Texas.

She won Phi Alpha Pi Scholastic Honor Society recognition in 1986, United States Achievement Academy's All-American honor in 1986-87, and Outstanding Educator honor in 1990-91. She was cited in **Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges** (1986-87) and **Outstanding Young Women in America** (1988).

"Ms. Linza's excellent record of academic achievement and experience offers RSD valuable insights that will help the board guide this school's future," said Superintendent **Harold Mowl**. "In addition, our students will benefit from a role model who can challenge our students to aim even higher."

## MUG SHOTS

In April, four students from Mill Neck Manor School for Deaf Children were winners at the International Creative Arts Festival for the Deaf in Chicago. High-school student **Alex Chang** (Queens) won Best of Show for Art Work; elementary students **Arthur Hess** (North Bellmore) and **Paul Landerer** (Floral Park) won first prizes in Computer Art; and high school student **Kristen Piersa** (Melville) won second prize in Writing. In addition, Chang's work was chosen to be reproduced on a mug, and Mill Neck Manor alumnus **Zachary Palisoc**, who now attends Gallaudet University, won Best of Show in Writing.

After winning regionally, the students won against other Deaf students in the country, winning a trip to the Chicago Festival. At the Creative Arts Center in Chicago, they participated in many activities, including a workshop with Deaf artist **Paul Johnson** and an awards banquet recognizing the winners.

The Creative Arts Festival is open to all deaf students throughout the United States; they create work within their art and English classes. Mill Neck Manor has been participating for 5 years. In the past, many Mill Neck Manor students have won Regional Awards, Certificates of Merit, and cash awards for their work.

## WANTED: EASTERN BLUEBIRDS

It's hard to find Eastern Bluebirds outside your window these days, and do you know why? Mill Neck High School science teacher **Karen Papasergiou** says the bluebird population has decreased by 90% over the last 50 years and is listed as a species of concern.

The loss of habitat and competition for nest sites (natural cavities) from non-native birds is the main reason for the decline. The introduction of two aggressive birds from Europe—the House ("English") Sparrow in 1850 and the European Starling—has made it difficult for bluebirds to find a suitable hole to nest in. However, Eastern bluebirds will settle for a specially designed nestbox placed in the correct habitat.

With the help of the Krusos Foundation, based in Cold Spring Harbor, and the Lyman Langdon Audubon Society, Papasergiou and her class started a special monitoring project to help bring back the bluebirds. "Mill Neck Manor is a good habitat for the bluebirds, so we are placing some of the specially designed nestboxes on campus," she says.

**Mary Normandia** and **Rick Kendenburg**, members of Lyman Langdon Audubon Society, and **Martin Wenz**, vice president of the Krusos Foundation, visited the class to discuss the Eastern Bluebirds and help find the best open field to set up the nestboxes. "The students placed three boxes in the apple orchards and have created a map designating their location. They have also taken pictures and created record sheets to log activity through the spring."

So far, the students haven't seen any bluebird activity. But they've gotten some first-hand experience with the competition. Ironically enough, a starling has nested right outside the science classroom.

## "OPENING UP THE WORLD"

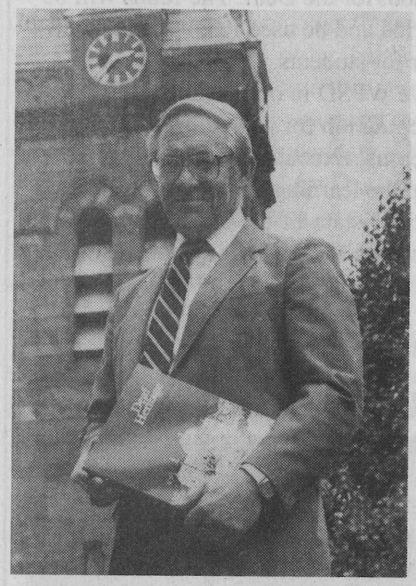
The Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf held its second Netday on May 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 500 p.m. A tremendous amount of community support enabled MKSD to extend its Netday activities to the Lower School. As a result of this second Netday, beginning next September, kindergarten through fifth-grade students will use their computers in their classrooms to supplement regular instruction.

The Lower School Netday was a community event. Writing kits were donated by the New Jersey School for the Deaf/ MKSD Alumni Association, the New Jersey Association of the Deaf (NJAD), The CIT Group, and the New Jersey Kiwanis Foundation. Public Service Electric & Gas paid for meals for the volunteers. They included members of the Deaf community, MKSD staff, PSE&G employees, fellows from the 1996 class of Leadership New Jersey, and board members of NJAD and New Jersey Kiwanis Foundation. Other supporters volunteered as interpreters.

Technology is vitally important for the education of MKSD students because it provides alternative and creative visual means to obtaining knowledge and improving skills. The use of computers in the Lower School classrooms will further the students toward the academic-achievement goals established in New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Dr. **Gertrude S. Galloway**, MKSD Superintendent, said, "Having community organizations, and particularly leaders in the Deaf Community, involved makes this Netday a special event. New Jersey's Deaf leaders realize how technology can open up the world to deaf children and they are making this happen by joining our Netday. We strongly believe that the long-term impact will be improved achievement levels for our students."

## JACK GANNON HONORED AT PSD



**Jack R. Gannon in front of the Chapel Hall and the Tower Clock, holding a copy of *Deaf Heritage*.**

The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf held its Graduation Ceremonies on June 13. Noted Deaf author **Jack R. Gannon** received PSD's Nevil Award of Merit, presented annually to a person (hearing or deaf) who has made a significant contribution to the Deaf Community. Dr. Gannon, who has been profoundly deaf since the age of 8, recently retired from his position as Special Assistant for Advocacy to the President of Gallaudet University, Dr. **I. King Jordan**.

An alumnus of Missouri School for the Deaf and Gallaudet College, Dr. Gannon has served as a teacher and coach, educational administrator, writer and lecturer. He's probably best known as the author of two well-known and respected Deaf History and Culture books. **Deaf Heritage: A Narrative History of Deaf America** (1981), a classic overview of the Deaf experience in the United States, was selected by the American Library Association as one of 21 international books for outstanding contributions by disabled persons. **The Week the World Heard Gallaudet** (1989), presents a behind-the-scenes summary of the "Deaf President Now" uprising that focused worldwide attention on Gallaudet University and is a colorful photo-chronicle of a major event in Deaf history.

Dr. Gannon also gave the Commencement Address. Diplomas were then presented to twelve PSD students who will go on to attend high school at either Lincoln High School in Philadelphia or the Model Secondary School for the Deaf on the Gallaudet campus. Graduates of the Class of 1997 are: **Kimesha Bowes** (Lansdowne), **Rebecca Handley** (Ridley Park), **Christopher Paolillo** (Bridgeport), and **Matthew Bujak**, **Paolo Dubuc**, **Edward Franklin**, **Telelesh Gebrehiwot**, **David Holeman**, **Daniel Mills**, **David Price**, **Hector Vega**, and **Michael Weisser** (all of Philadelphia). Before receiving their diplomas, each student shared individual school memories of PSD. Afterwards, the group presented an original ASL poem, "Graduation Day."

## WOW, THANKS!

VITAC has announced plans to contribute $20,000 to Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. The funds will be allocated over a 4-year period and be used to construct a new multimedia learning center for students.

"We are fortunate to have WPSD in our backyard. The institution has a national reputation for providing quality education," said **Jeff Hutchins**, Executive Vice President of VITAC. "The cost to equip the learning center is significant. Our gift will be used to build a state-of-the-art facility designed to prepare the students for technology outside of the classroom."

✖✖✖ photos here✖✖✖

## A VISION OF FRIENDSHIP

**Meghan Venturini is congratulated by her KDES teacher Beth Hall after winning first place in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest.**

**Jane Fernandes, Vice President of the Pre-College National Mission Programs at Gallaudet University, with KDES student Megan Venturini (holding her trophy), KDES Director Katherine Jankowski, and Program Manager Don Mahoney.**

Every year the Optimists clubs sponsor a Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. The theme of this year's contest was "My Vision of Tomorrow's World." **Meghan Venturini** of Woodbridge, Virginia, a fourth-grader at Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, won first place—$1500 towards a college scholarship—for her presentation "Deaf and Hearing Together" at the Capital Virginia and District of Columbia Optimist International Oratorical Contest for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children.

"I would like deaf and hearing children to get along better with each other," Venturini told judges Optimist club members and parents at the contest gathering at George Mason University. "It would be nice to have sleepovers, to invite each other to parties, and to go out together to fast-food restaurants." She expressed hope that elementary schools would make sign language mandatory so that all children would grow up knowing what sign language is and maybe "use it to communicate with new deaf friends. . . We, the Deaf . . . listen through our eyes and hearts. Some day maybe the hearing will be able to talk to the Deaf with their hands and through their heart."

"We are so proud of Meghan and all of our students who participated," said **Elizabeth Hall**, the teacher who helped Venturini prepare for the contest. Kendall Program manager **Don Mahoney** agreed. "The contest is a wonderful opportunity for students to develop their skills and learn to take risks," he said. "The Optimists value participation—not just winning. They really make it a positive event for all concerned."

Venturini was one of six students who competed in the contest. She and KDES student **Jonathan McMillan** earned the right to compete when they won Optimist club competitions held by the Noonday Optimists and the Sunrise Optimists in Alexandria, Virginia. Both competed in the junior category, 3rd through 8th grade, with other deaf and hard-of-hearing students throughout Virginia and Washington, D.C. Written copies of the speeches had to be submitted and

students had to limit their signed or spoken presentations to between 4 and 5 minutes.

## CAN I HAVE YOUR JOB?

In May, Model Secondary School for the Deaf (on the Gallaudet campus) held a Career Day. It marked the start of a new PCNMP initiative to help prepare deaf students for life and future careers.

Ten Deaf professionals from a variety of fields (an archivist, a U.S. Marshall, an illustrator, counselors, and a biologist, among others), all graduates of Gallaudet College/University, discussed their job experiences with the students and gave them a foretaste of the world of work. Students asked them questions about their careers at the U.S. Navy, the National Archives, U.S. Marshall Service, Deaf Reach, Maryland School for the Deaf, AT&T Relay Service, National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Air Force, and the CIA. Their fields encompass° science and math, computers, research, counseling services, graphic and liberal arts, and law enforcement.

The students, ranging from freshmen to seniors, had the opportunity to do informational interviewing. They asked a variety of questions such as how the professionals got their jobs, how many deaf people work in their business, agency, or organization, and what salary they earn. One student asked **Sharon Zuhlke** of AT&T if she could have a job.

Two students photographed the event with a new digital camera and transferred pictures of the participants onto the Pre-College National Mission Programs Website (✱www.gallaudet.edu/~precpweb).

**encompass:** embrace; include; encircle.

## C'EST MERVILLEUSE!

The University of Southern California (USC), one of the nation's top-rated private universities, has given **Patrick W. Seamans**, World Recreation Association of the Deaf International Secretary, its prestigious International Students Award of Academic Achievement. He and other outstanding international students (all of them hearing) received their awards at a May 25 ceremony on the USC campus, with a beautiful reception afterwards.

This award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement in scholarship and academic studies. Seamans recently received his Master of Science in Teaching English as a Second Language (MS-TESL) degree, under the advisement of Dr. **David Eskey** of the U.S. School of Education. Seamans achieved an outstanding GPA of 3.81, for which he received the award. It's only given to international students who have achieved a GPA above 3.80 in graduate-level studies. (Seamans is French.)

The achievement is even more impressive since Seamans was born deaf and English is his second language (French is his first language)—and he has pursued this degree in a field completely different from that of his B.A. and M.Arch. degrees in Architecture. (Both of these UC Berkeley degrees were also "with honors," and without an interpreter!)

Seamans is also an admitted member of Phi Beta Delta, the International Students Honor Society at USC, and received their medal of recognition at his recent induction into this organization.

After completing his coursework for the MS-TESL degree, Seamans will go on to complete his Master of Science in International Public Administration (MSIPA) at USC, under the advisement of Dr. **Robert Biller**, and his Ph.D. in International and Intercultural Education at USC, under the advisement of Dr. **William Rideout, Jr.** He has already completed the coursework requirements for both degree programs. Both the MSIPA and Ph.D. degrees are still in progress, with a current 3.71 overall GPA for all of his studies to date. In addition, Seamans is taking a course of studies for the Master of Arts in the Humanities at Cal State University, Dominguez Hills, and was recently been accepted into the Master of Professional Writing (MPW) degree program at USC, which he plans to begin this year.

He is a dual citizen of France and the United States. He attended elementary and secondary school at the Institution des Jeunes Sourds (School for Deaf Youth) in Orleans, France. After his graduation, he received two Certificates of Professional Aptitude, in competition with hearing applicants, in Industrial Drafting (with honors) and Metallurgical Drafting.

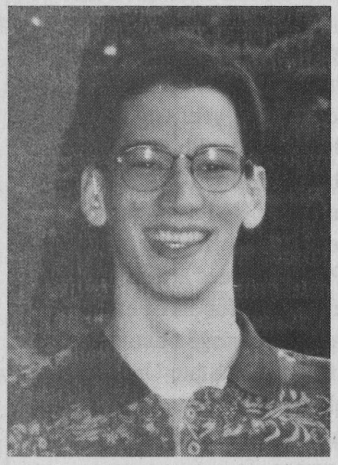
Interestingly, when Seamans investigated entrance into NTID several years ago, they turned him down, saying he didn't have enough English skills to enter their program. He then entered a regular hearing university, Bowling Green State University in Ohio, with only two years of correspondence courses in British English, and he has continued to achieve outstanding success in his life since that time.

He has also worked as an architect in major firms for over 10 years, has passed his state and national architecture license examinations, is a member of the American Institute of Architects, has participated in the Hearing-Impaired Architectural Network. As an architect, he lived in London for a year as an advanced student, and also worked on solar-energy design projects in England and France. He also designed the structure for the current Waterworld attraction at Universal Studios, and was recently recognized at a UCLA professional seminar for entertainment professionals as having the best idea in competition for a proposed new theme park in Colorado, among his other achievements.

—**P. R. Caswell**, J.D.
2nd V.P., WRAD International

## "IN SEARCH OF THE ANSWERS"

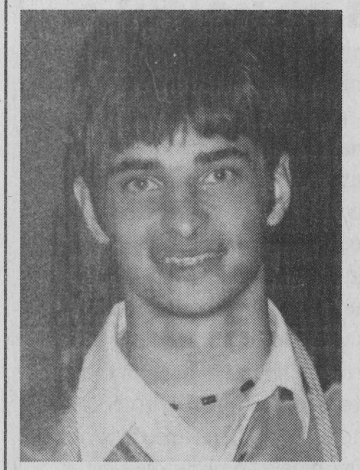
The Oregon Association of the Deaf Scholarship Committee selected two graduating deaf Oregon high-school seniors to receive the 1997 OAD Scholarships. The winners are **Tyler Bazzi** of Oregon School for the Deaf and **John Purvis** of Aloha High School, each of whom will receive $500 to help cover their college expenses.



John Purvis

Bazzi, of Silverton, Oregon, who was the 1996-1997 OSD Student Body Government president and Valedictorian of his class, earned a 3.89 grade-point average and was on the Honor Roll every semester of high school. He was also honored as an Oregon Scholar and a Casco League Scholar-Athlete. He also has been a leader in athletics, excelling in three sports, and was named Football Player of the Year by **Silent News**. The OSD staff selected him as "the student most involved in Community Affairs." He plans to become either a special-effects technician in Hollywood or a medical doctor.

Purvis, of Beaverton, Oregon, is a National Merit Scholar who earned a 3.96 GPA and was ranked 7th out of 372 graduating seniors at Aloha High School. In addition to the OAD Scholarship, he also received the Beaverton School District Administrators Scholarship and the Aloha High School Laughlin/Short Scholarship. Additionally, he was honored as Aloha High top graduating science student. The chair of Aloha High's Science Department described Purvis as "[a]n exceptional student with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. Questioning is a Way of life for John. He is a student scientist in the truest meaning of the word in that for every answer he discovers he is led to another question. He is continually in search of the answers."



Tyler Bazzi

He served as captain of the Aloha High School Junior Engineering and Technical Society Team, which competed in local and regional events. He competed in the U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl and served as Chair of the Aloha Chapter of the Model United Nations. He helped found the Aloha High School Racquetball Team and was a team member for two years. He will be majoring in physics or philosophy at Pomona College in California, and hopes to go on for his Ph.D.

Oregon Association of the Deaf congratulates Bazzi and Purvis for their outstanding scholastic, athletic, and leadership achievements. OAD Scholarships are given to outstanding deaf high-school seniors who are graduating in the year the scholarship is given. Applications for the 1998 OAD Scholarships can be obtained by contacting **Edward Ingham**, Ph.D., Chairperson, OAD Scholarship Committee, 0400 SW Palatine Hill Road, Portland, OR 97219; ☎(503) 245-2192 (TTY);❖Eingham@teleport.com (E-mail).

## SUMMER THRILLS (UPDATE)

On June 12, "TFA" reported, "The Young Scholars Program (YSP) at Gallaudet University has just received additional scholarship funds to assist 14-19-year-old deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing students to attend its challenging and exciting summer institutes." Up to $1,000 of support is now available to individual students. Tuition, room, and board for the 4-week YSP program will therefore cost each participant only $800.

They may select from two courses of study:

Creative Writing: Students explore a variety of writing genres, including poetry, short story, essay, and playwriting. Class work also exposes students to different writing exercises and strategies that lead to successful writing. Students use the diverse Washington area as an experiential laboratory.

Performing Arts: A gifted faculty of professional actors and dancers challenge YSP students to develop their acting, dance, and creative sign-language skills. Each year YSP selects a cultural focus for its course of study. This summer, in cooperation with the Mexican Cultural Institute, Embassy of Mexico, students will attend a variety of enriching workshop and field-trip experiences to learn about the rich Mexican culture. Joining the YSP faculty will be outstanding dancer and choreographer, **Gema Sandoval**, who is the founder and director of Danza Florico in Los Angeles, California. Students who successfully complete this year's YSP may apply for YSP's international touring program. Next summer, the group is scheduled for a 3-week tour of indict. In the summer of 1999, the touring company hopes to travel to Mexico and possibly to South Africa.

Summer Science Program: In addition to YSP, Gallaudet University also offers the SSP for 14-17 year-old deaf and hard-of-hearing students. They work with university professors on individual and team-research projects. SSP is partially funded by the National Science Foundation. The program fee for the four-week program is $750. Partial scholarships are available.

To apply, send (preferably E-mail) a letter of interest and two teacher recommendations to **Edgar Palmer**, YSP Coordinator; ☎(202) 651-5550 (TTY/Voice), ❒(202) 651-5065 (FAX), or ❖ebpalmer@gallua.gallaudet.edu. (➢)

✏ See also "Summer thrills," May 1997 "News Briefs," pp. 7-8.

## "A VERY SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE"

**George Nofer** is Executive Director and a trustee of the Oberkotter Foundation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a charitable foundation that recently spearheaded the creation of 10 new auditory/oral schools for the deaf throughout the nation. He was the speaker at Clarke School's commencement ceremony on June 18, addressing new graduates and the 13 new teachers who received their Master of Education of the Deaf degree from the Smith College/Clarke School Graduate Teacher Education program. With an advisory board of directors from 5 leading auditory/oral schools, including Clarke President **Dennis Gjerdingen**, the Oberkotter Foundation has sought new oral-school sites nationwide. Two of the schools are satellite programs of the Clarke School, located in Newton, Massachusetts, and Jacksonville, Florida.

Gjerdingen said: "Mr. Nofer and the Oberkotter Foundation are committed to helping deaf children become independent and productive citizens. Through their charitable gifts and guidance, new schools have begun from the East Coast to the West. This is a very significant milestone in the history of auditory/oral education of deaf children."

Members of this year's graduating class are from Massachusetts, Louisiana, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and Canada. Graduates of the Smith College/Clarke Graduate Teacher Education Program now teach in all 50 states and over 40 countries.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, WORKSHOPS, & FESTIVALS

### TUESDAY-NIGHT FUN

Gallaudet University is holding its annual Deaf Entertainment and Arts Festival, offering entertainment, art, and fun.

On June 17, Dr. **Deborah M. Sonnenstrahl** presented a lecture about a fascinating character, "Who is **Cadwallader Washburn**?—Deaf Artist, World Traveler, Journalist, Gallaudet Alumnus." "The **Bill Ennis** Comedy Hour" followed on June 24. Upcoming:

Tuesday, July 8: **Fred Beam**, "A Black Deaf Man: Who Am I?"

Tuesday, July 15: **Evon Black-Robinson**, "It Runz in My Family"

Tuesday, July 22: **Mark Morales**, "That's Life!"

Performances begin at 8:00 p.m. at the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center. Voice interpretation is provided. A cash bar is open from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m.

The Deaf Entertainment and Arts Festival is sponsored by the Offices of Summer Programs and Sign Language and Professional Studies, and coordinated by University Conference Management. For more information, contact **Audrey Wineglass** at ☎(202) 651-6060 (TTY/Voice), or ❖alwineglass@gallua.gallaudet.edu (E-mail). ➢

### DEAFESTIVAL (CORRECTION)

➡ DeaFestival '97 will be held on August 2 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the State Capital Grounds in Frankfort. It will feature Deaf artists and performers. Participants will explore, share, and celebrate Deaf talent and heritage through theater, stories, poetry, and visual arts.

In our May "News Briefs," the DeaFestival site was erroneously given as "Kentucky School for the Deaf campus in Danville." Note correct site. The main Festival activities, including a hot-air balloon, will be held on the lawn of the State Capital Building.

Thanks to **Bobbie Beth Scoggins**, Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, for calling this to our attention. For more information, contact her at ☎(502) 573-2604 (TTY/Voice); ☎1-800-372-2907 (TTY/Voice); ❒(502) 573-3594 (FAX); or ❖bscoggins@mail.state.ky.us (E-mail).

The *correct* information appeared in last month's "News Briefs," by the way.

### EYE MUSIC '97

The third annual Sign Choir Festival, an all-day celebration of Sign Music, will be held on September 27 at the Dallas Convention Center, in conjunction with National Deaf Awareness Week. It features morning workshops designed to meet the needs of a broad range of Deaf and hearing people, including seasoned performers, novices, interpreters, children, music teachers, and choir members.

This year's evening concert is a must-see—with a projection screen and star-studded lineup of guests from across the country. This year's keynote banquet address will be given by **Linda Bove** of ***Sesame Street*** fame.

The Sign Music Foundation has a tradition of drawing upon the talents of the Deaf community for the majority of workshop presenters and performers. Workshops will be presented by:

- Heartland Ministries (**Mark** and **Beth Mitchum**), nationally known Deaf artists who have several sign-music videos and travel extensively.
- **John Kinstler**, Deaf actor and co-star of "Sign Songs" video for kids
- The CRIDDERS: touring group featured on ***NBC Today Show*** and acclaimed as "the finest group of its kind in the country."
- **Peter Cook**, "Deaf Poet Extraordinaire," who is nationally renowned for his ASL storytelling and poetry.
- **Barry Nickelsberg**, artist and interpreter of over 1000 musical performances and concerts. Featured on ***ABC News***.

• **Pamela Farley**, former Miss Deaf Texas, who has directed 3 sign choirs and recently performed at the Billy Graham Crusade.

• Faith, Hope, and Love: sign-choir members with specialization in conflict resolution.

• **Robyn Brooks**, Deaf actress and artistic director of the South Florida Theatre of the Deaf

• **Paulette Wellman**, director of "All Hands on Stage" and teacher of sign songs and theater.

Schedule:

8:00-8:30 **Registration** (in the Ramada Plaza Hotel)

8:30-9:45 **Workshop #1 Choices:**

101 *The Signs (Styles) of Our Times*, by the CRIDDERS (**Lesslie Warren** and **Keith Vinci**)

102 *Cold Interpreting (the Concert Without a Rehearsal)*, by Barry Nickelsberg

103 *Conflict Resolution for Choirs*, by Faith, Hope, & Love (**Delpha Martin** & company)

104 *ASL Poetry*, by Peter Cook

10:00-11:15 **Workshop #2 Choices**

201 *The Signs (Styles) of Our Times*—repeat of 101

202 *Showing the Rhythm, Emotion, and Meaning of Songs*, by Barry Nickelsberg

203 *Interpreting Plays & Theatre* (beginning level), by Paulette Wellman

204 *ASL Poetry*—repeat of 104

11:30-1:00 **Lunch/Silent Auction/Business Meeting**

1:15-3:15 **Workshop #3 Choices**

301 *It's Just a Phrase You're Going Through*, by Heartland Ministries (Mark Mitchum)

302 *I Can't Hear the Music*, by Robyn Brooks

303 *School's In! Throw Out the Books!* by Pamela Farley

304 *JaM Session (Just Music & Sign) for Kids/Youth*, by John Kinstler

3:30-4:15 free time—change for banquet if you wish

4:30-6:00 **Banquet** (Attire is cocktail/ business). Keynote by Linda Bove

B:30-7:00 **Seating for concert/Exhibits**

7:00-9:15 **Concert**

This year's sponsors are: Hear My Hands, American Airlines, Barnes & Noble Bookstores, Denton Hearing Health Care, Jones Audiology & Hearing Aid Centers. Krogers, Pender's Music, Shell, Southwest Airlines, Sprint (Relay Texas), State Farm Insurance, Texas Bank, Total Hearing Care of Dallas, Penny Press, Mr. C's Florist, and Target.

Concert tickets are $5.00; reserved seating is limited. Deadline for workshop registration and banquet tickets is August 16. For details, full schedule, and a registration form, contact Project Coordinator **Becky Sue Parton** at the Sign Music Foundation at 2009 Feather Lane, Lewisville, TX, 75067; ☎(972) 318-0241 (TTY); ☎❒(972) 317-7699 (FAX/ Voice), or ❖SignMF@aol.com (E-mail) for a registration form. CEUs will be offered. A children's/youth workshop, *JaM Session* (Just Music & Sign), is an exciting addition to this year's program. No preregistration is required, but call for details.

Website: ✱http://www.startext.net/interact/sign.htm

## BRIEFLY NOTED

➨ *Deaf Nation Symposium 1997* is being held from July 9-11 at University of Central Lancashire, Preston, England. Contact: **John Dugnore**, University of Central Lancashire, Faculty of CLASS, Harris Building, Preston, PR1 2HE, England; ☎(01772) 893016 (Voice); ❒(01772) 892900 (FAX); ❖j.dugmore@uclan.ac.uk.

➨ TDI is holding its 12th Biennial International Conference, July 13-16, at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: TDI Home Office ☎(301) 589-3006 (TTY), ☎(301) 589-3786 (Voice), or ❒(301) 589-3797 (FAX). The local host committee with Missouri-Kansas Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc., can be contacted via **Fred Banks**, Chairman, at ☎(913) 768-8052 (TTY) or ❒(913) 768-8053 (FAX); or **James Giddley** at ❒(816) 833-0598 (FAX). Send your proposal via mail, fax, or E-mail to: **David Rosenthal** (❖dr7879@swbqmhub.sbc.com) and **Robert B. Weinstock** (❖rbweinstock@gallua.gallaudet.edu), Program Chairs, 12th Biennial TDI International Conference, TDI, Inc., 8630 Fenton Street, Suite 604, Silver Spring, MD 20910; ☎(301) 589-3006 (TTY); ☎(301) 589-3786 (Voice)l ❒(301) 589-3797 (FAX); ❖tdiexdir@aol.com.

➨ The 1997 Deaf Theatre Conference will be held July 19-27, at the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, Connecticut. Theme: "Deaf Theatre: Strategies For Success." A July 19-23 pre-conference workshop will focus on new scripts with Deaf playwrights, directors, and actors. ☎(203) 526-4974 (TTY); ☎(203) 526-4971 (Voice); ❒(203) 526-0066 (FAX); ❖DeafTC@aol.com.

➨ The Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals and The Educational Psychology Program of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, are providing a "Certificate in Chemical Dependency Rehabilitation for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Clients." First session: July 21-August 1. Fairview Recovery Services, Riverside Medical Center, 2450 Riverside Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55454-1400; ☎1-800-282-3323 (TTY/Voice); ❒(612) 672-2222 (FAX).

➨ DeafWide Services is sponsoring its 4th Annual "ASL Only" Weekend National Conference, July 25-27, at the Huntington Hilton Hotel in Huntington, New York. Contact: **Lynette Brusseau**, Assistant Director, DeafWide Services, P.O. Box 352, Woodbury, NY 11797-0352; ☎(516) 364-3899 or ☎(516) 364-8710 (TTY). Voice callers: Call New York Relay at ☎1-800-421-1220. ❒(516) 364-4612 (FAX); ❖deafwidesv@aol.com; ✱http://members.aol.com/deafwide/conf.html.

➨ Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) is holding a Convention for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse, July 25-27. Contact: **Gene Seidel**, 8420 West Beloit Road, West Allis, WI 53227,

☎(414) 536-1651.

➨ "Silent Partners," a tennis extravaganza, will be held on August 9 in Portland, Oregon, as part of 30th anniversary of the American Society for Deaf Children's 30th-anniversary celebration. It's designed to raise awareness about deafness and support the ASDC's many programs and services. Contact ASDC at ☎1-300-942-ASDC (2732); ☎(916) 482-0120 (TTY/Voice); ❐(916) 482-0121 (FAX); ❖ASDC1@aol.com (E-mail).

➨ The Frederick (Maryland) Chapter of the American Sign Language Teachers Association is sponsoring a workshop on "How to teach ASL Classifiers" on Saturday, September 13, at the Frederick Community College Library Building, Frederick, Maryland. Contact FASLTA, c/o **Jackie Kanekuni**, Deaf Access Services, Inc., P.O. Box 3104 Frederick, MD 21705-3104. Or call Jackie Kanekuni at ☎(301) 696-1550 (TTY).

➨ Sign Choir Festival '97 will be held on September 27 in the Dallas Convention Center in Texas. Contact: **Becky Sue Parton**, Director, Sign Music Foundation, 1610 E. McKinney #1901, Denton, TX 76201 ☎(817) 484-8550 (TTY); ☎❐(817) 383-0527 (Voice/FAX); ❖SignMF@aol.com.

➨ The 9th annual ALDAcon—the international convention of the Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA)—will be held October 15-19 at the Radisson Aventura Beach Resort, North Miami Beach, Florida. Contact: ALDA, 10310 Main Street, Box 274, Fairfax, VA 22930, or call the ALDA Hotline at ☎(404) 289-1596 (TTY) or fax ❐(404) 284-6862.

➨ "Coming Together with P.R.I.D.E. for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children in Nevâda" will be held October 24-26, in Reno, Nevada. Contact: **Michele G. Berke**, Director. Gallaudet University Regional Center, Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94539; ☎(510) 659-6268 (TTY/Voice); ❐(510) 659-6033 (FAX);❖gurcohlone@gallua.gallaudet.edu.

➨ The second National Multicultural Deaf Conference will be held November 14-16. Contact: Dr. **Michael Bienenstock**, Lamar University, P. O. Box 10076, Beaumont, TX 77710; ☎(409) 880-2322 (TTY); ☎(409) 880-8170 (Voice); ❐(409) 880-2265 (FAX); ❖mbeany@aol.com.

✐ **CALL FOR PAPERS**: Deadline for submission of proposals is **August 1**.

# FLOOD ALERT— DEAF BLACKOUT?

**One Day in the North Dakota Deaf Community: stories from the deaf flood victims in the Grand Forks/ Devils Lake area**

by **Peggy Camp** and **Judy Morgan**
D.E.A.F. staff members

While the flood waters recede, there is an opportunity to share the equally compelling stories from an under-reported community: the Deaf community. The Grand Forks/Devils Lake area is home for nearly 95 Deaf citizens. This number includes approximately 50 students at the North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD) in Devils Lake.

**Peggy (Frelich) Camp**, now a resident of Minnesota's Twin Cities area, grew up in Devils Lake. One of nine Deaf children, she and her siblings and parents attended NDSD. She says, "I have been disappointed with the news reports. There has been nothing about Deaf people. I grew up with some of these people. A question that needs to be asked and answered is: 'How is it possible this community continues to be overlooked today?'"

Consider for a moment how the "hearing" world benefits from radio announcements and uncaptioned TV-news reports during a crisis or disaster. These announcements and reports did not reach Deaf-community members. Sirens that blared to warn residents to evacuate went unheard by some of the Grand Fork community. Relief services were not accessible for ALL flood victims because of a lack of interpreters and TTYs at area shelters.

It's Thursday, May 1, 1997. Deaf community members want you to hear their stories.

Peggy Camp's parents, **Philip** and **Esther Frelich**, normally enjoy a post-retirement life in Devils Lake, having raised their nine Deaf children.* They communicate in ASL and are active within the Deaf community. Says Esther Frelich: "I have been frustrated trying to find out what is happening. Live reports on TV here are not captioned! We wanted to watch President **Clinton** but there were no interpreters or captioning. Before the flood, sometimes a shrunken screen or a map would cover the captions." Thankfully, the flood evacuation didn't affect them directly, though they worry about their Deaf friends. A TTY and fax machine in their home helps them communicate with friends and family.

At NDSD, one 17-year-old student, **Autumn**,† found herself displaced. She says: "My school closed in East Grand Forks. There are only 5 weeks left of school so I will study here (NDSD) for now. I won't have the same classes here in business law or geology." Her father has been busy helping flood victims and they invited one of her mother's friends, who was flooded out of her house, to live at their place.

When asked what concerned her most about the flood, Autumn replies, "It's all so devastating! The loss of homes, businesses, and then the fires too! I am concerned there was no telephone number for Deaf people to call and leave messages since this happened. Hearing people had a telephone number to use! I love to watch the TV news but there has been no captioning since this happened and no interpreters. Newspapers haven't said anything about Deaf people. There is no media attention given to the Deaf community. The focus is on the hearing world."

Luckily, Autumn and her family did not have to evacuate. She will need to go back to her regular school to collect her clothing, books, papers, and calculator from her locker. She describes friend's evacuation to a nearby town: "They had one hour's notice to move things from the basement and pack a

few belongings! It was a harried time. Apparently sirens were going off. I wasn't aware of that!

"I feel bad I can't stay with my family and that school is closed for me. Businesses will have to be rebuilt in Grand Forks. It will take time."

**Karen Holte** recalls the Saturday evacuation very clearly. An alumna of NDSD (1957) and Gallaudet College, she has worked at the University of North Dakota library for the past 35 years. "When I got up on Saturday, I turned on the TV to see if they were announcing any evacuations. There was no captioning! I asked my neighbor if the flood situation was getting worse. He said 'yes' so I drove around a little in my area. Sure enough, water was creeping toward us! I then asked another neighbor if we'd have to evacuate eventually. She only said she was leaving for Cando, North Dakota. That prompted me to call friends (the Frelichs) in Devils Lake to ask if I could stay for two or three days. My neighbor and I left at 11:30 a.m. in separate cars and the mandatory evacuation wasn't announced 'til Saturday midnight."

While at the Frelichs' home, Holte watched flood news on TV. "When I wanted to know something specific, I'd call the Grand Forks police or TV station long-distance . . . like when the first building went up in flames, I wanted them to identify the building and then tell me if the water had reached my area yet. Grand Forks police have a TTY but didn't use it at all!"

Holte also received some information from friends in Minneapolis, about how the Grand Forks mayor was addressing the citizens. "The Grand Forks newspaper and national news provided some details but I had to wait 'til the next day when the news was one day old.

"I realize I will not be able to return to my apartment very soon, so for the time being I will stay at NDSD. They welcomed me with open arms! Plus they allowed me to do volunteer work in the school library. I don't know where else I'd have wanted to go. I could have stayed with my brother in Minneapolis but I wanted to be as close to home as I could."

Something else troubles her. Even though she believes her second-floor apartment will be okay, she wonders what the toll-free numbers are and how to get good, accurate information about relief assistance and paying bills. "There is an interpreted press conference today at 5 p.m. I am hoping to learn more then!"

**Jennifer** and her brother **Bill** helped their parents sandbag their house very late the night before the evacuation. The basement was already full of water—and within one inch of the first floor! Both lived in NDSD dorms so some of their possessions had already been moved out.

Says Bill: "We helped sandbag, just like most people in Grand Forks. We had very little sleep before coming here. I live in the dorm now, so no problem. My parents will live on campus for now." Jennifer adds: "Yeah, because of the rush to get out, my parents had to borrow clothes! They took medication and the video camera. The rest seemed unimportant.

"Without much notice, we moved some things upstairs and then we had to get out. Can't go back yet. The basement is totally full of water. The walls and carpet are damaged."

Bill's biggest concern during this disaster is the lack of communication. "There is no captioning of the weather! No communication. One person saw their home destroyed on TV. It's a helpless feeling." What was most important for him to take out of the house before leaving? "My TTY is most important." Both Bill and Jennifer think that most people will move back to Grand Forks. Jennifer says, "Mom's place of work was burned by the fire. A lot of equipment was destroyed. She may be able to transfer to another office."

**Michelle**, also a student at NDSD, was out of town and had little time to prepare before the evacuation. There was very little time to move things out of their basement. "It's depressing; I lost some of my things. I am more worried about my brother. His first-floor apartment downtown was burned in the fire. He lost everything. At first I could not reach him or get information about his well-being!" Her dad's business was also heavily damaged.

When asked if she is still frightened, Michelle replies, "During the day I'm okay . . . it's mostly at night when I have time to think about everything, *then* I am scared." Michelle suspects that her dad may move their home to a different location in Grand Forks.

Another NDSD student, **Michael**, says his mother told him there was no water in their basement. However, the family's church sustained heavy damage. He says, "We have to throw out everything from the basement of the church. It really smells bad!" His family left their home on Saturday after packing a few things like the TV, radio, furniture, and some clothes. "My mom listened to the radio and because of this, panicked the worst. I'm Deaf. I couldn't hear those announcements and sirens!"

Michael had a part-time job, but the workplace is now closed. He was amazed that 95 percent of the people left their homes. What shocks him the most is "the stories about pets left in their homes that died. This is unbelievable!" Another of the things that consistently bothered most of the group was how they were "caught off guard" by the inaccurate predictions of the water levels.

These are a few of the stories from the Deaf community in the flood-ravaged area of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Hopefully, these stories will inspire and motivate local, state, and national service providers and officials to rethink the meaning of "accessible information." Hopefully, these stories will prompt Deaf citizens to work closely with these officials in ensuring a successful plan and implementation. Preventative planning is the key.

The answer is simple. Provision of interpreters, public TTYs, flashing sirens, electronic-announcement boards, and live captioning *must* be added to future emergency-preparedness procedures. These procedures need to address *all* emergency sites, whether that be Red Cross, shelters, Presidential and VIP visits, and other city functions.

*Another of their daughters, and Peggy Camp's sister, is renowned actress **Phyllis Frelich**.

†To protect the identity of minors, some of the names used

in this report are fictitious.

### "WATER OVER THE BRIDGE" UPDATE

The Deaf Summit is seeking Deaf/hard-of-hearing flood victims in the tri-state area: Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. If you are a flood victim or you know someone who is, please contact the Deaf Summit as soon as possible. When leaving a message, include your name, city, state, and a way to contact you.

Members of the Deaf Summit are selling "Water Over the Bridge" buttons and T-shirts. Small buttons cost $3.00 each; large buttons: $5.00 each. T-shirts (Large/X-Large) are $15.00 each.

All proceeds from these sales go to Deaf/HoH flood victims. To purchase these items, contact **Michael F. Zeledon**, D.E.A.F. Development Associate, at: ☎(612) 297-6704 (TTY/work); ❒(612) 297-6766 (FAX/work); ❖mfzeledon@juno.com (E-mail). Address: Deafness Education Advocacy Foundation, P.O. Box 75128, St. Paul, MN 55175-0128. Make your check or money order payable to D.E.A.F.

**Background:** The Minnesota Deaf Summit is a group comprised of senior members of various Deaf organizations in the metro area, whose purpose is to bridge relationships, share information, and develop teamwork and unity among the Deaf community-at-large. It's working closely with the North Dakota Association of the Deaf to raise funds to support the flood victims.

For more information about the Minnesota Deaf Summit or D.E.A.F., please contact Mr. Zeledon at the numbers above.

## PEDAL POWER

**the adventure of a lifetime**

A crowd of people riding hundreds of miles together from Minneapolis to Chicago for a good cause. Cycling up hills with persistence and strength. Soaring down the long, winding country road with big smiles on their faces! Meeting and making friends at the campground under the glittering stars at night. Having meaningful and enjoyable conversations they will not forget for the rest of their lives. Sharing grief and joy with new friends and acquaintances. Having fun through nightly entertainment. Making it to the end of their journey and celebrating at the magnificent closing ceremonies in Chicago.

Taking part in this fundraising bike-a-thon inspires people in all walks of life, and offers riders an opportunity to overcome one of the most difficult but significant challenges they have ever faced in their lives. What's unique and exciting about this ride is that a Deaf rider is participating in this event and making a BIG difference on behalf of the Minnesota Deaf community.

The Twin Cities to Chicago AIDS Ride is taking place July 7 to 12. The 6-day, 470-mile non-competitive bicycle pledge drive benefits the HIV/AIDS-related services of several local nonprofit organizations. It's about Minnesota riders taking action in their lives and for people with HIV/AIDS. Among riders who have never done anything like this before in their lives, is **Nicole Zapko**, a 26-year-old Deaf actress from Minneapolis who, for the past two years, performed with the National Theatre of the Deaf. She is participating for the first time.

To become eligible for the AIDS Ride 2, Zapko had to raise a minimum of $2,300. Thanks to the sponsorship of the Deafness Education and Advocacy Foundation (D.E.A.F.), she has the opportunity to surpass her minimum fundraising requirements. In addition to her fundraising efforts, she has been training in hotel and exercise rooms while traveling around the country with the NTD. She said, "It is my hope that my participation in this AIDS Ride event will make a huge difference, and have a strong impact on the Deaf community as well as to the hearing community." She wants to stay fit and make friends with the other AIDS riders. Despite the long distance she has to ride, she's confident that she will make it all the way with no or little trouble.

She knows that the Deaf community is a minority-language population that is statistically undocumented in terms of HIV infection: "I'd like to see the HIV/AIDS information be more available and accessible to the Deaf/hard-of-hearing communities. I hope to offer the HIV/AIDS test sites and agencies an opportunity to increase their awareness about our communication needs through this AIDS Ride 2."

The Center for Disease Control does not currently collect statistical information on members of the Deaf community affected by HIV infection, although **TIME** magazine has estimated that 7,000 Deaf people across the nation are HIV+ and 300 have died of AIDS.* Currently, there are approximately 20 Deaf HIV-prevention-education programs available nationwide. Deaf activists are working with state health departments to increase awareness about the Deaf community in America.

One such pioneering education program can be found in Minnesota. D.E.A.F. has been providing HIV/AIDS and STD prevention education for the Deaf community since November 1995. With funding from the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Deaf Community HIV/AIDS + STD Prevention Education Program provides (among other services) peer-education training, a Deaf youth-health conference, and HIV-prevention case management.

*See "AIDS/in one community, silence equals death," **David Van Biema's** April 4, 1994 article in **TIME**, reprinted in the March 1995 issue of **DEAF LIFE**.

## RATING THE SOBRIETY SERVICES

The Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals was recently awarded a grant

from the Minnesota Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division. This project titled "Assessment of Aftercare Services for People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deafblind, and Late Deafened," will focus on surveying substance-abuse facilities in the state of Minnesota. Its goal is to determine which aftercare agencies in the state are accessible to these focus groups. The survey will determine a level of accessibility based on such things as interpreter services, adaptive equipment, number of staff who are Deaf, hard-of-hearing, Deaf-blind or late-deafened, and modified therapy tools. Once the survey is complete, the information will be documented in a formal report and recommendations will be made to the state.

The Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals is one of a handful of programs nationally that provides specialized substance-abuse services designed to meet the communication and cultural needs of Deaf/HH people. There remains a lack of accessible aftercare resources for clients who have completed treatment. While primary treatment is a vital component of a recovering person's sobriety, it is only a small portion of the person's life. Ongoing sobriety is dependent on an established continuum of care. This continuum includes involvement in AA/NA meetings, Al-Anon meetings for families, halfway and sober houses, and counseling services. While these are readily available for members of the hearing population, they are still rare in the Deaf community. Through efforts such as the accessibility survey, MCDP hopes to improve the availability of substance abuse aftercare services for Deaf, hard-of-hearing, Deaf-blind and late-deafened recovering persons.

For more information, call the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals at ☎1-800-282-3323 (TTY/Voice); ❐(612) 672-4516 (FAX).

## DHCC'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY

**At DHCC's 25th Anniversary celebration.** Left to right: **April Nelson, DHCC's Chairperson of the Board; Lillian Hoshauer, DHCC's retiring Executive Director; Doris Stetler, one of DHCC's founding members.**

On April 27, the Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre, Inc. (DHCC) of Philadelphia celebrated its 25th year of service. The special occasion was celebrated at the Marriott Hotel in West Conshohocken, where more than 200 friends and supporters of DHCC attended the event. It began with a cocktail hour and was followed by opening remarks from **April Nelson**, DHCC's Board Chair, and **Lillian Hoshauer**, DHCC's retiring Executive Director.

**Richard Morris**, DHCC's new Executive Director, said, "Our mission is to promote communication accessibility, equality and cultural awareness to the Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing communities by providing quality communication services, advocacy, and educational programs. In the age of interdependence, we need to form a healthy team of multidiverse individuals, including Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing, all of whom may have united differences, but based on respect, we can work together and take advantage of great opportunities. Such an opportunity includes the advanced technologies which will maximize our potential and meet the challenges of the 21st century. There is no more better way for us to make our future brighter."

Following the luncheon, Morris introduced the special guest speaker, **Gerald Nelson**, Quality Assurance Manager for MCI, who gave a presentation on "Communication Technology: Moving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing toward the 21st Century." It highlighted the benefits of current and future technology for deaf and hard-of-hearing people, with special emphasis on Internet access and electronic-mail capabilities.

**Background:** The Deaf Hearing Communication Centre, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Philadelphia, is dedicated to providing accessibility and education to the community as a whole. 24-hour interpreter services are available. Other services provided by DHCC include: Sign Language courses, community-outreach programs, sensitivity and cultural-training workshops, and summer camp. Contact DHCC at ☎(610) 534-4940 (TTY/Voice); ❐(610) 534-4942.

### ACTION AT THE SUMMIT

In late April, DHCC was contacted and asked to provide and assist with interpreter services for the Presidential Summit meetings held in Philadelphia from April 27 to 29. President and Mrs. **Clinton** and Former Presidents **Bush**, **Carter**, and **Ford** along with Mrs. **Ronald Reagan** and Chairman **Colin Powell**, all gathered to promote "Volunteer Community Services."

DHCC's Interpreter Services Coordinator, **Lesia Richman**, coordinated and scheduled 10 of more than DHCC's 60 working interpreters throughout the 3-day Presidential Summit, which was filled with exciting events. Directing interpreters to the various locations throughout the city, re-scheduling them, instructing them, arranging for transportation, lighting, platforms, and lunches, were all part of the process required to meet the Summit's interpreting needs.

149 hours of interpreting were provided by DHCC Interpreter Services, inclusive of 33 volunteer hours by recent Interpreter Training graduate students from Community

College of Philadelphia.

Richman said, "Providing interpreter services and ensuring communication accessibility for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community is the primary purpose of our Interpreter Referral Services. It gives DHCC great pleasure and pride to know that we can achieve our goals and provide our services to meet the needs of our Deaf and hard-of-hearing population."

## JAMIE TUCKER, L.A.B. HONORED

Left to right: **Debbie Colon-Martin, DAS Vice President; James Tucker, MSD Superintendent; Karen Sheffer-Tucker, DAS President; Bette Hicks, emcee.** (Photo: Deb Myers)

Deaf Access Services, Inc., held its third annual Recognition Dinner on May 10 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Frederick, Maryland. This year's guest speaker was Dr. **Yerker Andersson**, Presidential appointee to the National Council on Disability.

Each year DAS honors an organization for outstanding effort toward communication accessibility for Frederick County's deaf and hard-of-hearing citizens, and likewise honors a person for distinguished service to the Deaf community.

Legal Aid Bureau, Inc., was named Organization of the Year for 1997. It has shown great respect for the deaf consumer and the profession of sign-language interpreting.

**James Tucker**, Superintendent of the Maryland School for the Deaf, is this year's winner of DAS' Carolyn Foley Memorial Award.

Tucker became superintendent of MSD 5 years ago, at a time when the school was utilizing a substandard curriculum and was facing serious financial problems. Largely due to his efforts, MSD set two precedents among schools for the deaf across the country. One, the implementation of the Frederick County Public Schools Essential Curriculum raised standards for and expectations of deaf students in Maryland. Two, the passing of HB 1023 on May 8 gave MSD the same budget protection that Maryland's public schools have always received.

## REDISCOVERING A BIT OF OUR HISTORY

a report by **Alice L. Hagemeyer**

On April 13, on our way to Phoenix, Arizona, to attend the fourth national conference of Deaf Seniors of America, Inc. (DSA), my husband, **Ted**, and I stopped in Harriet, a very small town located in the northern-central part of Arkansas that may be named after a Deaf woman. It has a post office, a general store, and a gas station, but the nearest public library is the Searcy County Jim G. Ferguson Memorial Library located in Marshall, Arkansas.

The next day, I roamed this library to learn more about Harriet (both the town and the person).

My interest stemmed from a story I'd read several months earlier which I will review here. In **Nancy Creighton's** column in the **NAD Broadcaster** (September 1996), she mentioned **Harriet Esther Anderson**, a Deaf woman, who had Harriet, Arkansas, named after her. The source of this information was the newsletter of the Arkansas Association of the Deaf, which in turn gave credit to a resource found in the local public library.

This source was a letter to the editor of the local newspaper, **The Mountain Wave** (no date given), sent by **Dora Anderson Howell** of Othello, Washington, recalling this event. As the story goes, the year was 1908 when a family by the name of Anderson moved into Searcy County from Missouri to homestead. The father, in 1909, applied for approval of a new post office, and a representative of the postal service in Little Rock arrived to check and make the necessary arrangements. Fortunately, this representative knew sign language, for his mother was deaf. Harriet made an excellent strawberry pie for this visitor, and they communicated in sign language. By this means, he asked for her given names, which were Harriet Esther, then offered to name the post office Harriet in appreciation of the pie and some homemade bread she also served.

Fact or a legend? Did this representative from Little Rock actually want to name the town after Harriet because of her pies? No one knows, but I believe there may be more to the story than tasty pies. I believe that it is quite possible that the representative may have wanted something in the area to remind local people of the language and culture that Harriet and her family represented—this same language and culture he had experienced with his deaf mother.

It is also likely that Harriet communicated in sign language with her husband. Was he hearing, perhaps a CODA (child of deaf adults) like the representative from the post office in Little Rock? Did he work as the first postmaster of "Harriet"? Did her daughter, Dora Anderson Howell, pass on the recipe for Harriet's strawberry pie? This the deaf community may want to find out, assuming she or her survivors are still living in Othello, Washington.

Unfortunately, I was not able to locate additional informa-

tion at the library on the story about the town "Harriet," but it is possible that Harriet enjoyed reading and writing letters to her friends and relatives and did not like the long delay in having them delivered from a nearby big town, so she may have been the one who decided that the area needed its own post office and may have pressed her husband to do something to make this happen.

On this trip, I was also able to answer one question which has occurred to me. When I first learned that the information about Harriet was from the public library, I wondered who had discovered it? It turned out that I would meet this person.

**Pat Halsted**, who directs the Searcy County Jim G. Ferguson Memorial Library, was familiar with the deaf community because she had been married to the hearing son of Deaf parents. It turned out that it was she who first discovered the information about Harriet and had shown the papers to her former father-in-law, who lives in Harrison, Arkansas. The father may have given the information to the editor of the newsletter of the Arkansas Association of the Deaf.

How many towns, schools, libraries, parks or others have been named after a deaf person? The library staff, researchers, writers, and editors need and appreciate people like Pat Halsted, her former father-in-law, and editors of deaf-related newsletters for their help in locating information concerning the language, culture and history of the deaf community.

✏ **Editors' note:** Glyndon, Minnesota, is the first town named after a deaf woman *and* professional woman writer in her lifetime. **Laura Redden Searing** was a deaf 19th-century journalist, biographer, and poet: Her pen name was "Howard Glyndon"—but virtually everyone knew that "Howard Glyndon" was a woman. Glyndon, a railroad town, was founded in 1872 and named in her honor, and there's a new "Poet's Garden" memorial in the city park commemorating Searing and her literary achievements. Glyndon is one of the places that are known to have been named after a deaf person. Deaf Smith County in Texas, named after the Texas war hero and spy **Erastus "Deaf" Smith**, is another. It's a county, not a town, but it is without a doubt a *vast* area!

## WHAT'S COOKING? YOUR FAVORITE?

Plans are underway for the production of the first cookbook with recipes contributed entirely by Deaf people. When finished, this limited-edition cookbook will be a great collector's item and source of pride for the Deaf community—and is sure to please your palate too!

Deaf people may send in up to 3 recipes in any of these categories:

Appetizers & Beverages; ➧ Soups, Salads, & Vegetables; ➧ Main Dishes & Casseroles; ➧ Meat, Poultry, & Seafood; ➧ Breads & Rolls; ➧ Pies, Pastry, & Desserts; ➧ Cakes, Cookies, & Candy; ➧ This & That (miscellaneous).

All recipes must be either typed or printed. Don't use abbreviations. Keep your directions in paragraph form—not in steps. Include your name and mailing address; your name will appear with the recipes you contribute. It only takes a few minutes to be a part of this exciting project!

Recipes must be received by August 8. You may send them via mail, fax, or by E-mail (the easiest way). The cookbook will be professionally typeset, illustrated, and bound. Proceeds will be used in conjunction with summer-camp programs for Deaf children. Ordering information will be made available later. Sign Music Foundation reserves the right to reject or combine duplicate entries and will not be held liable for errors or omissions.

Send to: DEAF COOKBOOK, 2009 Feather Lane, Lewisville, TX 75067; fax to: ❒(972} 317-7699; E-mail to: ❖SignMF@aol.com.

## "IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY"

**Joe Dannis** has received the 1997 California Small Business Person of the Year Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). He was honored at the annual "Tribute to Small Business Awards Luncheon" at San Diego Convention Center on May 23. Co-sponsors were Service America Corporation, Wells Fargo Bank, and **San Diego Metropolitan Magazine,** San Diego Chamber of Commerce, and Small Business Development Center.

**Rick Schroeder**, Vice President of Rancho Vista National Bank, who nominated Joe Dannis for the award, said, "We recommended Joe and DawnSignPress as they are a perfect example of a successful small business who is innovative in carving a niche market in the production of educational materials. Joe was an obvious self-sacrificing leader who poured his heart and soul into the company to accomplish what he set out to do." SBA "recognizes him as the outstanding small businessperson among all candidates, not only in San Diego and Imperial counties, but in the entire state of California as well. His efforts for DawnSignPress have clearly earned him this honor. We were impressed that in the face of personal adversity, he has a growing, thriving business. We also look at community service, and his whole business is geared toward that."

Dannis founded DawnSignPress 18 years ago, as a one-room operation with two employees. There's now a full-time staff of 22 and 9 part-timers, and DawnSignPress has become a leading publisher of instructional sign-language and educational Deaf Studies materials and unique products for adults and children, Deaf and hearing alike. He says, "My education, coupled with hard work and years of discipline, led to my success as a small-businessman."

## "SUCH A WONDERFUL OUTLET"

Performance Arts for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is the only performing-arts program just for Deaf people in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Last January, it found a home in Creative Arts Theatre & School (CATS) in Arlington, Texas.

**Regina Davis,** a Deaf performer/consultant and a board member of the Dallas Deaf Action Center, established the Deaf program at CATS. She's been teaching dance and acting to Deaf students, and sign language to CATS personnel. In an article by **Teresa Newton** in the **Arlington Morning News** (December 27, 1996), Davis explained how hungry Deaf children were for the opportunity to have classes taught in ASL, and to express themselves:

"There are some deaf youth that have taken dance classes under hearing teachers, but no classes for the deaf. Or at least no classes with someone who is fluent in sign language. This is a great opportunity that the deaf kids haven't had. It's really sad to me because it's such a wonderful outlet."

She also noted how access to the performing arts boosted their self-esteem: "Self-esteem is a critical factor with the deaf. Even if they don't become professional performers, they can take that self-esteem with them wherever they go in life." The arts also provide a means to bring Deaf children closer to their hearing families, many of whom have never learned even basic sign language.

Before she was invited to CATS, Davis had already set up a Deaf-dance program, but the former location didn't have wood floors, which are, as Newton noted, "essential in transmitting music to the students.". Davis explained, "We must feel the music." CATS' dance studios provided an "ideal classroom"—wood floors and mirrored walls.

**Kathey Ward**, CATS's Executive/Artistic Director, was always fascinated by sign language, had taken a few sign-language classes, and had considered a career in teaching dance to deaf students. "But CATS, which she founded in 1978, kept her too busy." Ward told Newton, "They have so much to express. The beauty of the signing, the fluidity, the movement has always been entrancing to me."

**Natalie Gaupp**, CATS' Director of Education, "said she hopes the program evolves to where deaf and hearing students can work together in performances." She told Newton, "What we've heard is that these students are ravenous to have a place to do something really creative. I would really hope that we give it a chance to evolve."

During the school year, three classes met once a week at CATS to explore acting, dance, and sign music.

"9 to 5 One-Week Workshops," teaching basic performance skills to Deaf and hard-of-hearing students, will be held from August 4-8. And a "Sign Music Workshop" giving all students an opportunity to explore sign and dance performance to music, will be held from July 28 to August 8.

Upcoming summer classes (Session III) run from July 28 to August 8 and include: "Places, Please! Creative Drama and Movement" (ages 4-5); "Cue the Lights! Creative Drama and Movement" (ages 6-8); "Curtain Up! Acting," (ages 9-11, 12-17); "Overture! Musical Theatre" (ages 6-8 and 9-13), and "CATS Theatre Club/Improvisation and Readers' Theatre" (ages 6-11, 12-17).

For details, contact CATS, 1100 W. Randol Mill Road, Arlington, TX 76012, ☎(817) 365-8512; ❐(817) 274-0793 (FAX).

## REVISITING A LEGEND

If **Pocahontas** used sign language to communicate, Rochester School for the Deaf students were re-enacting a bit of history when they performed the play ***Pocahontas: An American Legend*** on May 29, 30, and 31.

**Ryan Turek** (senior, Hornell, New York) had the starring role of **John Smith**. "I think this is going to be a great production," he said. Although a sports star at RSD, Turek said he has always loved to act. He was determined not to pass up this opportunity. **Dawayna Paynter** (junior, Rochester) played the lead role of Pocahontas.

**LaToya Griffin** (freshman, Rochester) played a (Native) American Indian. She was proud to participate because she has Cherokee and Apache lineage in her family. "I just thought it would be cool to participate in an activity like this." **Dwayne Sickler** (sophomore, Springwater, New York), played Ben. "People call me a 'rising star' due to my love of performing," he said. "I've been in lots of plays at RSD since I was a kid. Playing the character of Ben is cool." **Asha Wilkens** (8th-grader, Pittsford), who played Nakoma, praised Director **Gene DiVencenzo**. "He has patience with the kids who have difficulty memorizing lines. I think this year's play will run smoothly." Said **Eric Davis** (8th-grader, Elmira), who played a Native American warrior: "Being part of the show has been a source of learning and enjoyment."

**Darnell Jones** (senior), **Shanelle Young** (freshman), and **Pamela Rosa** (6th grade, all from Rochester), also performed. Young played Pocahontas' mother. "What a great time this has been. I can't wait to perform it for my friends!" Rosa played an old grandmother who advises Pocahontas. "Being in this show is so much fun. I like performing because it makes people happy. Speaking of roles, school has played an important role in my life."

**Angelik B. Cooper**, a senior from Brooklyn, who narrated the play, said the show took a lot of commitment. "I hope the community attends. People will enjoy themselves."

## SIGN MANIA SWEEPS NATION!

ASL is said to be the third most widely-used used language in this country, but it's been hard for the general public to find a place to learn it. On June 9, the ***Home & Family Show*** had Deaf actor **Anthony Natale** teach some signs on-air, and the phone lines were jammed with over 1,000 calls. Natale, who appeared in ***Mr. Holland's Opus*** and is being written into ***Ellen***, was on the show to promote a new video he stars in,

*How to Talk to a Person Who Can't Hear.*

On June 12 in Chicago, Natale was awarded First Place for Talent in the United States International Film & Video Festival, for his appearance in the ***How to Talk***. The festival received 1,500 entries from 28 countries this year, and he is the first Deaf actor to win the talent category in its 30-year history. The video, called "groundbreaking" by many organizations including the Canadian Hearing Society and the Tennessee Library Service for the Hearing-Impaired, has also won an award for Creative Excellence for writer/producer **Christine Jenkins**. She set a trend in the '80s when, as a serious photographer for **TIME**, she created a landmark book titled **BUNS: A Woman Looks At Men's** (Putnam's), which sold over a million copies.

Jenkins cashed in her life savings to create ***How to Talk*** when she became friends with Natale and was frustrated trying to find an easy, fun way to learn his native language. "There are 20 million deaf and hard-of-hearing people in North America, but no one knows how to communicate with them. I hope to make Signing a craze that then becomes common knowledge. Young kids are learning it in school now, which is great, but our baby-boomer society is aging, and this is a skill we all should have. Even if a teenager learns it only to talk to friends across a nightclub, it still means that when they have a hearing-impaired customer in their store, they can be polite instead of afraid."

The Smithsonian Institute asked for the video after positive word traveled through Washington, and many government-service organizations have been enthusiastic about this accessible way to learn sign language, particularly since the Capitol area has the largest population of Deaf and hard-of-hearing citizens in America.

***Home & Family*** host **Cristina Ferrare** was so impressed by the video after she took it home to her kids, she invited Natale to come back and teach more signs on-air. ➤

## AAAD UPDATE: A STEP TOWARDS UNITY

Representatives from the AAAD, the newly-named National Deaf Sports Association (NDSA), National Softball Association of the Deaf (NSAD), and American Basketball Association of the Deaf (ABAD) met in Austin, Texas, on May 31 and June 1, to discuss ways to resolve their differences. All groups recognized the importance of unity, and that it's in the best interest of all deaf athletes.

The meeting produced a Letter of Intent, which was signed by leaders of the AAAD and NSAD/ABAD/NDSA. Each group agreed to go back to their officers and members for clarification and feedback. The meeting was harmonious and productive and ended with a feeling of great optimism.

In mid-June, after consulting with their regional affiliates, they approved the release of the Letter of Intent. Here's the complete text.

**Letter of Intent**

1) It is agreed by all parties that deaf athletes are best served by a single national sports organization of deaf athletes.

2) The concept of Regional Sports Organizations (RSO) of the National Deaf Sports Association (NDSA) and the National Sports Organizations (NSO) of the AAAD is something to be worked out later, at the NSO Council level, with the involvement of the regional associations.

3) (a) Clubs shall pay dues through the regional associations in the amount of $25 to regions, $25 to the AAAD, and $25 for each sport in which the club participates. Such payment shall entitle them to voice and vote in the House of Delegates, and all publications and information distributed by the AAAD.

(b) Individuals shall pay a $5 participation fee collected by the regional associations and forwarded to the AAAD home office, along with a copy of the entry forms.

(c) Officers of the AAAD, NSOs, members of AAAD committees and athletes representing the AAAD in international competitions shall pay full membership dues.

(d) Anyone having voting privileges in the House of Delegates shall be a full member of the AAAD.

(e) All organizations will strongly encourage their members to apply for full membership in the AAAD, which will entitle them to full AAAD benefits.

4) The National Softball Association of the Deaf (NSAD) shall become the softball NSO of the AAAD. NSAD shall remit to the AAAD the Hall of Fame fees collected at the San Jose tournament. The AAAD shall pay the liability insurance expenses of the NSAD for 1997. NSAD players at the 1997 national tournament will be charged a $5 AAAD participation fee.

5) There will be one national basketball tournament in 1998, preferably in Orlando, conducted by the United States Association of Deaf Basketball (USADB). There will be 8 regional tournaments, conducted by the American Basketball Association of the Deaf (ABAD). The registration forms of the ABAD will be used, with the name USADB/ABAD. The 1998 annual meeting will be run by a neutral person (to be named later) and will consist of review and merger of the by-laws of the two organizations and an election of officers. As soon as possible, the ABAD and USADB plus one person from the AAAD and one person from the NDSA and a neutral moderator will have a face-to-face meeting to resolve other basketball issues.

6) Better communication will be a prime goal of all. A WEB page will be implemented as quickly as feasible. Official communications and other pertinent information will be sent to regional secretaries and other appropriate persons via e-mail, fax or WEB page. All parties agree to refrain from any further negative com-

ments.

7) There will be no reprisals by any of these parties toward any team or player for past actions in connection with any ban.

8) With this Letter of Intent, the ban on the NSAD and ABAD is temporarily lifted. Upon successful implementation of this agreement, the ban will be permanently removed.

(Signed)

**Lawrence Fleischer** ..... President, AAAD
**David Stout** ..... President, NDSA
**Vance Rewolinski** ..... Commissioner, NSAD
**Craig Opheikens** ..... Deputy Commissioner, ABAD
**Dennis Platt** ..... Vice President, AAAD
**Jerald M. Jordan**

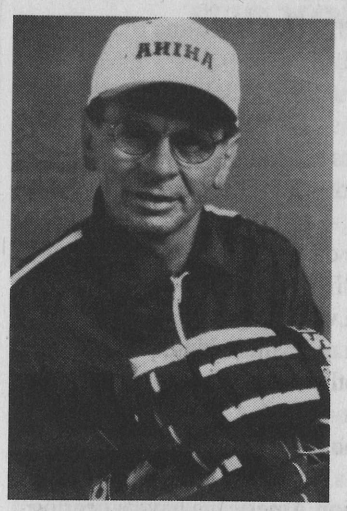
✏ Thanks to Larry Fleischer for faxing us the Letter of Intent.

## MULTIPLE GOALS

**Coaches at AHIHA communicate to layers via sign language, lipreading, or special interpreters.**

Deaf and hard-of-hearing youngsters from around the country enjoyed an exciting week-long encounter with hockey professionals at Stan Mikita's Annual Hockey School, run by hockey legend and former Chicago Blackhawk **Stan Mikita**, and now in its 24th year. This year, more than 100 students attended from June 14-21. The session concluded with a Benefit Game at the Seven Bridges Ice Arena in Woodridge, Illinois, on June 21, where current and former NHL stars squared off against the School's varsity squad. All proceeds from the game benefit the Chicago-based American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association (AHIHA).

This year the players faced off at the new location. "We're looking forward to moving to the Seven Bridges Arena and its outstanding facilities," said **Irv Tiahnybik**, co-founder of the School.




**Stan Mikita, co-founder of the American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association (AHIHA).**

Throughout the week, players were coached by current and former professional hockey players. During the evenings, they competed against youth hockey teams in the Chicago area. What's unique about deaf hockey is the on-ice instruction players receive from their coaches through sign language and lipreading techniques. "We've also added off-ice training sessions to the school this year," said Mikita. "Conditioning is extremely important to a player's advancement on the ice."

AHIHA was founded in 1974 to teach hockey to deaf and hard-of-hearing youngsters. "But we're more than just a hockey school," said Mikita. "Here the youngsters learn not only how to score goals in hockey, but they develop the confidence needed to meet the challenges of life." AHIHA has become one of the leading sports organizations in the United States serving deaf and hard-of-hearing athletes.

For more information about AHIHA, contact **Tom Schaffner** at ☎(312) 828-9300 or **Andi Decker** at ☎(773) 509-5563; ☎(773) 767-3130 (TTY); ❐(312) 829-2098 (FAX).

## THE SWEET SOUNDS OF SUMMER

A seasonal warning from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: many summertime activities can endanger your hearing. (If you've got it, you don't want to lose it!) Even a one-time exposure to extremely loud noises, such as lawnmowers, fireworks, rock concerts, power-boating, and other loud recreational activities can permanently damage hearing.

"Noise-induced hearing loss is usually gradual and painless, but unfortunately, permanent," says **Vic Gladstone**, Ph.D., ASHA's Associate Director for Audiology. "However, even a one-time exposure to extremely loud noise, like a firecracker, for example, can cause permanent hearing loss."

Knowing what noises can cause damage is important. Prolonged or repeated exposure to any noise above 85 decibels can cause hearing loss. Most lawn mowers, motorcycles, chainsaws, and powerboats produce noise at or above 85 decibels. Personal stereos may account for the highest sources of noise-induced hearing loss—sound from personal stereos has been measured at levels as high as 110 decibels. Permanent hearing loss can occur from exposure to impulse

noise at or above 140 decibels, this includes some rock concerts and firecrackers.

To protect your hearing this summer, ASHA recommends the following tips:

❝❞ Wear hearing protectors such as earplugs during fireworks and when attending concerts. Using cotton in your ears does *not* block sound.

❝❞ Turn down the volume on stereos and personal listening systems.

❝❞ Use hearing protection when engaging in noise-producing activities, such as lawnmowing, power boating, using power tools, or other loud household appliances.

❝❞ Limit the length of time of exposure to loud noise during your summer festivities.

According to ASHA, 28 million Americans have a hearing loss. Nearly half are the result of damage from excessive noise. For a free brochure about noise and hearing loss, call ASHA's HELPLINE at ☎1-800-638-8255 or write to ASHA, Information Resource Center, 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

## TINNITUS: HOW TO COPE

Tinnitus ("ringing in the ears" or "head noises") affects more than 7 million Americans. The symptoms are generally loud, persistent noise in the ears (ringing, chiming, clicking, beeping, buzzing, a high-pitched squealing or whining, a low roar or rushing sound, etc.) Most everyone, whatever their age, will, at some time in their lives, have a temporary ringing sensation in their ears. A percentage of them, however, are afflicted so severely that they cannot lead normal lives.

Tinnitus is little understood. It's usually associated with high-frequency hearing loss but can also be caused by an allergy, high or low blood pressure, a tumor, or thyroid problem. Consultation with a specialist is often required to determine if the condition can be treated or controlled. In most cases, there is no specific treatment for it. If the cause(s) of the condition cannot be identified, some medicines may help control the noise. (See following item.)

A new public-service leaflet, "Doctor, what causes tinnitus?" is being offered free by the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS). The leaflet outlines the causes of tinnitus and ways to cope with this disorder. Included within the leaflet is a an invaluable list of "do's and don'ts" for those suffering from this condition.

The new patient-information leaflet is invaluable for those who suffer from and live with tinnitus. You can obtain a free copy of "Doctor, what is tinnitus?" by sending a self-addressed, stamped, business-size (#10) envelope to Tinnitus c/o American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, One Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3357.

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## SILENCING THE MIDNIGHT CHIMES?

Four otolaryngologists in Sarasota, Florida, have completed a medical-research study that provides evidence that melatonin, an over-the-counter, natural hypnotic,° can assist in alleviating° the difficulty that some tinnitus sufferers have getting a good night's sleep.

The research findings were presented on May 12 at the annual meeting of the Triological Society, part of the Combined Otolaryngological Spring Meetings (COSM) in Scottsdale, Arizona. COSM is an annual gathering of 10 medical societies, all of which present new research in the otolaryngology/head-and-neck surgery specialty.

Patients with tinnitus often have difficulty getting a good night's sleep. The four otolaryngologists received reports that patients improved their sleep patterns after taking melatonin. Consequently, the medical team initiated a randomized, prospective double-blind, placebo-controlled° study of 30 patients with severe tinnitus. Among the patients reporting sleeping problems due to tinnitus, there was a statistically significant improvement among test subjects who were given melatonin.

The study's authors believe that the results of this research merits additional research on the effects of melatonin on tinnitus.

**hypnotic**: here, a medicine or herb that induces sleep or helps patients fall asleep more easily.

**alleviating**: lessening; easing.

**randomized, prospective double-blind, placebo-controlled**: conducted as a carefully monitored medical experiment. A *placebo* is a nonfunctional pill—a "dummy" pill (usually made of sugar and starch) that has no medical value. In a *randomized* experiment, half of the patients are chosen at random to receive real medicine while the other half get placebos. In a *double-blind* procedure, the patients don't know whether they're taking a placebo or a real medicine. And the doctors who actually administer the pills don't know which patients are getting placebos and which ones are getting real medicine. Only the doctors who conduct the experiment know. These safeguards help to ensure that the experiment is scientifically valid and that the results are accurate and objective. The results of the group taking placebos are measured statistically against those of the group taking the medicine—in this case, melatonin. When it comes to medical-research experiments or studies, sometimes there will be a slight (or even significant) improvement in the group taking the placebo (because they think they're being helped), so these results have to be set aside.

Only results from rigorously monitored and experiments (such as double-blind studies) are accepted as scientifically valid proof. Personal testimonials are not.

## TAKE YOUR TIME

In response to a lawsuit by Equip for Equality, Inc., the National Board of Medical Examiners has agreed to provide an accommodation to a medical student with a learning disability.

Olga Ceron, a medical student at Creighton University in Nebraska, was scheduled to take the United States Medical Licensing Examination in Chicago on June 10. Ceron, who has been diagnosed with a learning disability, requested the Board to modify its examination procedures in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act to allow her additional time to complete the test. The Board refused to provide her with the accommodation.

As a result of the Board's refusal, Equip for Equality filed suit against the Board in federal court in the Northern District of Illinois located in Chicago. The Complaint sought a temporary restraining order that would require the Board to provide the additional time Ceron needed. On June 3, the Board agreed to settle the case and provide Ceron with the accommodation that she had requested.

"I am thrilled that I will be given the accommodation that I needed," said Ceron as plaintiff. "I look forward to taking the test and continuing my medical-school studies."

Medical-school students must pass the examination at issue in this case before they can proceed with their third year. Ceron's medical school has been supportive of her need for the accommodation and has provided her with additional time to take examinations since she was.diagnosed with the learning disability.

"Our client underwent extensive evaluations to support her need for a modification of the Board's policy," said Joseph Perry, the lead attorney on this case for Equip for Equality. "Unfortunately, a lawsuit is often the only way to persuade entities to comply with their responsibilities under the ADA."

"The Board's initial refusal to provide the requested modification of its examination was in clear violation of the ADA," said Barry Taylor, Program Director of Legal Advocacy Services for Equip for Equality and one of the attorneys handling the case. "People with learning disabilities are often treated as if the ADA does not apply to them."

"People with disabilities can be full participants in society if discriminatory practices are eliminated," said Zena Naiditch, President and CEO of Equip for Equality. "We hope the Board's actions will influence other organizations to modify their policies to provide equal opportunities to people with disabilities."

**Background:** Equip for Equality, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to advance the human and civil rights of people with physical and mental disabilities in Illinois. It is the state of Illinois' designated protection-and-advocacy system for people with disabilities, pursuant to federal law.

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## IT'S YOUR LIFE!

"Physical Therapy for Healthy Living" will be the theme for National Physical Therapy Month this October, sponsored by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). The celebration will feature physical therapists and PT assistants nationwide conducting special events such as fitness clinics, fun runs, athletic competitions, open houses, and seminars on health and fitness topics. Activities will focus on injury prevention; general physical-fitness training and education; rehabilitation following injury, disease, or surgery; and other areas of physical-therapy practice that help patients achieve and maintain good health.

The theme, "Physical Therapy for Healthy Living," was selected by APTA to tie in with the 1996 **Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health**. The report stated that moderate physical activity for 30 minutes a day can have significant health benefits.

"Physical therapists encourage Americans to lead more active lives, and we are there to help design appropriate exercise programs suited to an individual's health condition," says APTA President Marilyn Moffat, PT, Ph.D., FAPTA.

**Background:** APTA is a national professional organization representing 72,000 physical therapists, assistants, and students. Its goal is to foster advances in physical-therapy practice, research, and education.

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## AN ACTIVE, HEALTHY OLD AGE? IT'S POSSIBLE!

Strength training, popularly thought of as a pastime of young athletes, can benefit the health status of elderly men and women. Research published in the June issue of the **Journal of the American Dietetic Association** shows that increased strength, attained through muscle-bearing and resistance-type activities, actually helps people increase their aerobic activity level and thereby possibly fight off many chronic diseases associated with old age.

While both aerobic and strength conditioning are highly recommended, the authors, William J. Evans, Ph.D. and Deanna Cyr-Campbeli, R.D. (registered dietitian) of Pennsylvania State University, say that only strength training can stop or reverse *sarcopenia*, an age-related loss in muscle mass.

When muscle mass is diminished, older adults often have a harder time staying physically active and, in severe cases, lose endurance for routine activities of daily living, according to the experts. This, in turn, leads to decreased energy needs and often is a factor in weight gain among the elderly.

Strength or resistance activities, such as weight-lifting or push-ups, causes large muscle groups to generate force that is progressively increased over time. Aerobic activities, such as cycling and walking, have long been recognized as vital to a healthy lifestyle and important in managing many chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure.

For older men and women who need to lose weight, resistance training can preserve or even increase muscle mass during weight loss. The researchers point out that muscle burns calories more efficiently than fat, allowing older adults to consume more nutrients with less risk of weight gain.

The **JADA** article provides guidelines for resistance exercise training for the elderly and notes that anyone over the age of 50 who wants to begin a vigorous training program should consult a physician. In addition, the article offers suggestions for developing community-based exercise programs for the elderly.

This research was published as part of ADA's Nutrition & Health for Older Americans campaign, which is working to keep people healthy and active during their later years. Future issues of **JADA** will feature research on common health problems of ethnic elderly and access to healthcare among rural elderly.

## WHAT'S DOING IN LOS ANGELES

### Previews

**July 20**

➳ *Celebrating 30 Years! Junior Arts Center 30th Anniversary Exhibition*, featuring a selection of student works highlighting education programs. Reception: 2-4 p.m., Junior Arts Center Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. Sponsored by Friends of the Junior Arts Center. ☎(213) 485-4474. (Through August 31.)

➳ *JAC Faculty Art Exhibition*, Children's Gallery at the Junior Arts Center. Reception: 2-4 p.m. ☎(213) 485-4474. (Through August 2.)

**July 21**

➳ 1998-99 Cultural Grants Workshops, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Gallery Theatre, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 620-8635. Focus: Individual Artist Program.

**July 23**

➳ 1998-99 Cultural Grants Workshops, 6-7:45 p.m., Cypress Park Library, 3320 Pepper Avenue, Los Angeles. ☎(213) 620-8635. Focus: Arts Organization Program.

**July 25**

➳ *Night Readings*, a series of readings by poets and writers. Program TBA. 7 p.m., Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood B1., Los Angeles. Nominal admission fee; free to children. ☎(213) 485-4581.

**July 26**

➳ 1998-99 Cultural Grants Workshops, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Tujunga Community Auditorium, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga. ☎(213) 620-8635. Focus: Individual Artist Program.

**July 27**

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Healing Dolls" with artist/dollmaker Riua Akinshegun. 2-4 p.m., Watts Towers Arts Center. ☎(213) 485-4474.

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Gum Wrapper Jewelry" with artist Deedee Bransky. 2-4 p.m., William Mead Homes, 1300 N. Cardinal St. (two blocks east of N. Main St.), Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

➳ *Watts Towers Summer Music Series* presents Desborde, a 6-member ensemble that blends Latin American folk styles and nueva canción into a contemporary repertoire performed in non-traditional ways. Musicians are Mari Riddle, a founding member of Desborde and Sabiá, vocals; jarana jarocha, percussion; Mercedes Márquez, vocals; Ericka Verba, another founding member of Desborde and Sabiá, arranger, vocals, lead guitar; Carl Byron, composer, keyboards, accordion, percussion; Julio "Jimmy" Ledezma, percussion, charango; and Rick Moors, bass. 3-4 p.m., Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 E. 107th Street, Los Angeles. ☎(213) 847-4646. Free.

**July 29**

➳ 1998-99 Cultural Grants Workshops, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Van Nuys-Sherman Oaks Senior Center, 5056 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys. ☎(213) 620-8635. Focus: Arts Organization Program.

**July 31**

➳ 1998-99 Cultural Grants Workshops, 6-8 p.m., Self-Help Graphics, 3802 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, East Los Angeles. ☎(213) 620-8635. Focus: Arts Organization Program.

**August 2**

➳ 1998-99 Cultural Grants Workshops, 4-6 p.m., Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 E. 107th St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 620 8635. Focus: Individual Artist Program.

**August 3**

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Kids for Peace" with artist Gayle Gale. 2-4 p.m., Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4474.

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Creatures of Peace" with artist David Oroxco. 2-4 p.m., Ramona Gardens Community Service Center, 2830 Lancaster Ave., East Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

**August 4**

➳ 1998-99 Cultural Grants Workshops, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Councilmember Laura Chick's office, 19040 Van Owen St., Reseda. ☎(213) 620-8635. Focus: Arts Organization Program.

**August 6**

➳ 1998-99 Cultural Grants Workshops, 6-8 p.m., Councilmember Nate Holden's office, 5651 W. Pico Blvd.,

Los Angeles. ☎(213) 620-8635. Focus: Arts Organization Program.

**August 7**

➳ Lecture by Nancy Sanquist, historic preservationist. Sanquist, who's a board member of Friends of Schindler House, will discuss the purpose and path of historic preservation and answer questions on preservation as it applies to Los Angeles as a city. 7:30 p.m., Gallery Theatre, Barnsdall Art Park. Reception/book-signing following lecture in Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House. Sponsored by Friends of Hollyhock House. ☎(213) 913-4157. Donation/admission fee charged.

➳ 1998-99 Cultural Grants Workshops, designed to help in preparing strong and competitive applications, 6-8 p.m. Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas' office, 8475 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles. ☎(213) 620-8635. Focus: Arts Organization Program.

**August 8**

➳ *Nagoya Sister City Art Exhibition*, featuring children's artwork from Nagoya, Japan, and Friends of the Junior Arts Center's International Child Art Collection (in conjunction with the Nisei Week Festival). Children's Gallery at the Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4474. (Through September 7.)

**August 9**

➳ 1998-99 Cultural Grants Workshops, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., North Weddington Center, 10844 Acama Street, North Hollywood. ☎(213) 620-8635. Focus: Arts Organization Program.

**August 10**

➳ The 13th annual *Children's Festival of the Arts*, 12-4:30 p.m., Barnsdall Art Park. Co-sponsored by the Hollywood Arts Council and the Cultural Affairs Department. ☎(213) 485-4474. Free.

**August 12**

➳ 1998-99 Cultural Grants Workshops, 6-8 p.m., Councilmember Richard Alarcon's office, 8128 Sunland Blvd., Sun Valley. ☎(213) 620-8635. Focus: General.

**August 13**

➳ 1998-99 Cultural Grants Workshops, 6-8 p.m. Venice-Abbott Kinney Memorial Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., Venice; ☎(213) 620-8635. Focus: Individual Artist Program. ☎(213) 485-6873 or ☎485-2433.

**August 17**

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Spirit Catchers" with artist Teresa Tolliver. 2-4 p.m., Nickerson Gardens, 1506 112th St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Toys and Games of California Indians" with artist Frank Flores. 2-4 p.m., Southwest Museum, 234 Museum Dr., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474. ☎(213) 485-6873 or ☎485-2433.

## BITS & PIECES

☞ **Something for everyone:** The New York State Fair opens in Syracuse on Thursday, August 21 and runs through Labor Day, September 1. This is the tenth year that Fair Access for the Deaf (FAD) will be at the Fair. FAD provides 30 sign-language interpreters from all over New York State. Everyday there will be 12 to 20 events interpreted. These may include cooking demonstrations, live-animal surgery, environmental lectures, State Police and Niagara-Mohawk demonstrations, or magic and puppet shows for children. The free evening concerts at Cole Muffler Court are also interpreted and special seating is reserved.

Detailed schedules of interpreted events are available during the Fair at the Guest Relations booth located on Cole Muffler Court. Additional schedules will be at interpreted locations. These events have a sign with the FAD logo. and times are posted. You can spot interpreters wearing their bright blue shirts with the FAD logo on the back.

Call **Jim** and **Cathy Skvorak** at ☎❐(315) 474-6711 (TTY/Voice/FAX) if you have any questions.

☞ **Silence & laughter:** Rochester School for the Deaf featured a world-class mime, **Ricky Smith**, at its Spring Fest on Saturday, June 7. It was open to the public.

Smith, a 1972 graduate of RSD, pioneered the Mime Artist in Residence Program in school systems, has performed in Europe and Japan, and appeared on ***Good Morning America***, ***Real People***, the ***Today Show***, in commercials, and on several educational children's programs. His theme is "Communicating Across All Language Barriers." For many hearing audience members, it's their first contact with a Deaf performer—or a Deaf person.

Other Spring Fest activities included a silent auction and an exhibit of birds of prey by Wild Wings of Braddock Bay. There also were games, pony rides for children, food, a bake sale, crafts to make, craft exhibitors, and a sale of spring annuals.

☞ **No go:** Ameritech/Deaf Options' Deaf-inite Strides 5-mile run scheduled for June 15 was cancelled in early June. (We received this news too late for our June issue.) The race will be rescheduled in the fall.

☞ **"Exceptional" volunteers honored:** On June 5, nine Time Warner employees received the Andrew Heiskell Community Service Award at a luncheon celebrating the 16th anniversary of the awards, and discussed their volunteer experiences. Winners were selected for their "exceptional contributions to public service, equal opportunity and human

rights" in their workplaces and communities. The luncheon and awards presentation were held in the Time & Life Building in Rockefeller Center, New York City.

"Time Warner is not only proud of the talent and commitment our employees devote to their communities, we're actively involved in supporting their outstanding contributions and honoring the spirit of commitment and compassion that characterizes our company, " said Gerald Levin, Time Warner Chairman and CEO.

Honorees were: Bob Bronzo, production financial manager for **People Weekly**, New York City; Gabrielle Glore, Director of Marketing Promotions for Warner Music Group, New York City; Ed Heaton, Marketing Associate for HBO, New York City; Susan Hunyor, Sales Assistant for **Money**, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; Ceona Jarrard, Administrative Assistant for Time Warner Satellite Services (Southwest Region), Austin, Texas; Steve Lichtenstein, Senior Programmer Analyst for Warner Bros., Burbank, California; Maureen O'Brien, Senior Marketing Manager for PEOPLE, New York City; Donnel Scott, News Production Coordinator for CNN, Atlanta, Georgia; Bill Wyckoff, System Maintenance Technician for Time Warner Cable/Binghamton, Vestal, New York.

☞ **Crab Theory? No, Crab Feast!** For the last five summers friends old and new have gathered to honor the memory of **Joseph L. Mattivi**, and to support the Gallaudet University scholarship fund in his name.

The 1997 Crab Feast and Silent Auction continued the tradition. This year's Feast was held in a new month—on Saturday, June 28—and in a new location more accessible to Washington and Baltimore—Mayo Beach Park in Annapolis, Maryland.

The Crab Feast presented many opportunities for fun and games. It offered more this year than ever before: all the crabs you could eat, a full picnic lunch, live music on the outdoor stage, family swimming in the bay, a softball tournament, Bingo, a silent auction, Buster the Bus, spin art, face painting, and photo buttons!

The tradition of the Joe Fund raffle, of course, continued. Top prize for the raffle this year: The lucky ticketholder won a complete home-entertainment system consisting of a 36-inch color TV, a four-head stereo VCR, a Home Theatre system, and a bookshelf CD system.

The Crab Feast benefits the Joe Mattivi Memorial Scholarship Fund, Gallaudet's fastest-growing scholarship fund, with the largest number of individual contributors. It's endowed scholarship fund, which means that Gallaudet University will never spend its principal.

Half the available funds support the "Joseph L. Mattivi Memorial Scholarship Fund Award for Academic Excellence," awarded to a deserving student in the School of Management at the end of her/his junior year. The award offsets educational costs for her/his senior year. This award is based on merit. The other half of the available funds are used by the Career Center to provide stipends to a needy student participating in Gallaudet's cooperative-education program. This award is based on need.

For information on upcoming "Joe Fund" activities, contact **Larry Mattivi** at ☎(301) 865-4024 (Voice), or ❖lawrence.j.mattivi@bge.com (E-mail). (➢)

☞ **Happy campers I**: Camps and summer programs for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, ages 6-14, are being offered by the Montgomery County (Maryland) Department of Recreation.

Programs run on specific dates and are offered in either sign language or cued speech. There are still some space available in the following classes/camps: Special Interests Sports Camps, In-Line Skating School, Theatre, General Nature and Day Camps, Sports Camps, Science and Technology Camps.

For more information contact the Montgomery County Department of Recreation at ☎(301) 217-6890 (Voice), or visit ✱http://www.bisvideo.com/deafways.htm on the Web. (➢)

☞ **Happy campers II:** The Michigan Deaf Youth Leadership Camp (MDYLC), to be held this year from July 20 to 26, is designed specifically to meet the unique communication needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing children and teens. Sponsored by Deaf Community Advocacy Network (Deaf C.A.N.!), MDYLC offers 50 deaf and hard-of-hearing children a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The camp is directed by a Deaf leader, **Janet Etkie Schwall**, and a team of deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing volunteer staff who are fluent in ASL. The camp also will provide oral interpreters for teens who don't know sign language. The MDYLC also welcomes children of Deaf adults (CoDA).

Teenagers (13-19 years old) will have the opportunity to meet with nationally renowned Deaf leaders, learn about nature, the environment, critical issues that confront them daily (drugs, teenage sex, violence), and have fun partaking in a multitude of activities designed to boost their self-esteem, acceptance of themselves as Deaf people, and learning to become the leaders of tomorrow. Challenging rope courses, educational programs, leadership training, and most importantly, interaction with successful Deaf professionals, camp gives them a chance to learn, grow, and feel important.

Camp is held at Pine Hills Camp in Brighton, Michigan. Set on 160 wooded acres, Pine Hills' beauty inspires staff and children to be the best that they can be.

For more information, contact **Marcy Colton**, director, Deaf Community Advocacy Network, ☎(248) 332-3323 (TTY), ☎(248) 332-3331 (Voice), ❒(248) 332-7334 (FAX), or ❖janetkie@aol.com (E-mail). (➢)

☞ **Getting hooked!** SkyTel, a global leader in wireless communication, has recruited 100 deaf and hard-of-hearing persons from the Washington, D.C. area to evaluate a new advanced personal pager for 30 days. This pager enables users to exchange text messages with family, friends, and employers without requiring access to special equipment or telephone lines.

SkyTel is providing each participant with a SkyWriter pager for 30 days free of charge. Participants were required to fill out an initial survey form and attend a brief evening training session at the Peikoff Alumni House on June 24. (Interpreters and hors d'oeuvres were provided.) At the end of the 30-day trial period, they must attend a group discussion, complete a final survey, and return the pagers.

Participants are under no obligation to SkyTel in any way, will not be given a "sales pitch," and will not be pressured to sign a contract to keep the pagers after the initial survey period. (➢/Mike Kaika)

☞ **New Websites!**

✷http://www.aaad.org—American Athletic Association of the Deaf

✷http://www.open.org/oad/dno—deafNETOregon (DNO), sponsored by the Oregon Association of the Deaf

✷http://www.uad.org—Utah Association of the Deaf (➢)

➢ = Taken or adapted from TFA.
➤ = Taken or adapted from NJ-L.

# CAPTIONITCH

## HITS, RUNS, ERRORS, & CAPTIONS!

VITAC has been awarded a contract to provide national captioning of ***FOX Saturday Baseball***, which began its second season on May 31 with a game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Each Saturday during the season, viewers can enjoy national coverage of one major-league baseball game. The first pitch is scheduled for either 1 or 4 p.m. ET. (Consult local listings for game times.)

## FROM COUCH POTATO TO POWER BROKER!

The blockbuster infomercial, ***Anthony Robbins' Personal Power II: The Driving Force***, is now closed-captioned.

Best-selling author and the acknowledged expert in the psychology of change, **Anthony Robbins** provides a 30-day program teaching the fundamental lessons of self-mastery that enable people to discover their true purpose, take control of their lives, and harness the forces that shape their destiny. Robbins has advised business and world leaders, financial experts, celebrities, and even members of prominent royal families how to consistently achieve peak performance. His blueprint for taking control of your mental, emotional, physical, and financial destiny has benefited millions worldwide and is now accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing audiences through his latest infomercial, captioned by The Caption Center.

The program's marketer and sole caption funder, Guthy-Renker Corporation, is delighted to reach out to those who rely on captioning. Spokesman **Eytan Urbas** said, "We are thrilled that deaf and hard-of-hearing people now have access to this valuable and extremely popular program for personal success." Guthy-Renker is the largest domestic producer of high-quality infomercials and products designed for home shopping and direct response television sales with annual revenues in excess of $300 million.

***Personal Power II*** airs at various times throughout the country and draws huge audiences. Guthy-Renker has dedicated TTY phone lines (☎800-655-2266) for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers to place orders for the personal-development package, which consists of audiocassettes, CDs or transcripts, a closed-captioned "Life Management Systems" video (closed-captioned), "Success Journal," a personal diary, and a $100 voucher for Tony Robbins' live seminar.

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Batmobiles, cats, canaries, dogs, and **Johnny Depp** are just a few of the stars of newly-captioned series on cable network FX. ***Batman***, ***Pet Department***, and ***21 Jump Street*** are appearing with closed-captions, thanks to The Caption Center, the U.S. Department of Education and the FX Network.

Batman, starring **Adam West** and **Burt Ward** as the Dynamic Duo, premiered in 1966 and more than 30 years later remains a cult classic. The popularity of characters originally created in comic books of the '30s has remained strong across seven decades, most recently in three of the biggest-grossing feature films of all time. Each blockbuster film—the latest due this summer—generates new interest in the '60s series. Guest villains such as the Penguin, the Joker, the Riddler, and Catwoman are as fixed in a generation's memory as the campy° acting and fight scenes, punctuated by

Deaf Life
wishes you
a enjoyable, safe,
and fun July!
Use sunscreen
lotion and sunglasses.

# CLASSIFIED

## Mill Neck Services Job Development Program

Are you Deaf or Hard of Hearing? Are you looking for work? Mill Neck Service's Job Development Program can help you obtain employment. Please contact our agency at ☎(516) 922-3334 (TTY) or ☎(516) 922-3818 (Voice).

## Sign Language Interpreters

Need a Sign Language Interpreter for special events? Contact Mill Neck Services Interpreter Referral at ☎(516) 922-3334 (TTY) or ☎(516) 922-3818 (Voice).

## UPCOMING BROADWAY MUSICALS TO BE SIGN-LANGUAGE-INTERPRETED

Single tickets are on sale for sign-language-interpreted Saturday-matinee performances of the musicals ***Smokey Joe's Cafe*** (July 26) and ***Show Boat*** starring Tom Bosley (August 30) at the Orange County Performing Arts Center, Costa Mesa, CA. Also, subscriptions to The Center's 1997-98 Broadway Series — ***The King and I, Big, Annie, Chicago, Rent,*** and a sixth musical to be announced — can be purchased now via The Center's website/link to TicketMaster (www.ocartsnet.org/ocpac/tickets.htm) or by calling The Center's box office at 714-556-2746 (TTY). To be added to our mailing list, contact Larry Stotz at the above TTY, via fax (714-556-0156), or mail (c/o OCPAC, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626).

full-screen animated *POWs*, *BANGs*, and *THUDs*. Now, thanks to the U.S. Department of Education's Syndicated Programming grant, the entire television series will be accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers for the first time. ***Batman*** airs on FX twice daily, 6 days a week.

To a nation of pet lovers comes a show devoted to every aspect of our favorite creatures. Daytime Emmy nominee **Steve Walker** and **Jack the Dog**, former Manhattan homeless pooch transformed into TV star, host ***Pet Department***, the show that covers finding, caring for, and enjoying a pet. Field host **Suzanne Whang** and pet experts discuss breeds, training, health, pet-related products, and celebrity pets while Walker and Jack take a close-up look at potential pet kittens, snakes, and birds. The series airs 7 days a week at 3 p.m. Funding for the captioning of ***Pet Department*** comes from the U.S. Department of Education's Daytime Programming award.

***21 Jump Street***, a popular series that debuted on Fox in the late '80s, introduced the nation to a then-unknown Johnny Depp as one of a squad of police officers who specialize in investigations relating to young people. Each of the squad members has been recruited for their ability to pass for high-school or college students, allowing them to operate undercover unnoticed. The Caption Center captioned the series for its original broadcast network and first-run syndication airings, and FX Network has generously provided the funds necessary to reformat the captions for airing on its network. ***21 Jump Street*** airs Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 p.m.

**Background:** FX is a national general entertainment and sports basic-cable network with 37 million subscribers and unique access to the resources of Twentieth Century Fox. The Caption Center is now celebrating its 25th anniversary pioneering access to television for deaf and hard-of-hearing audiences.

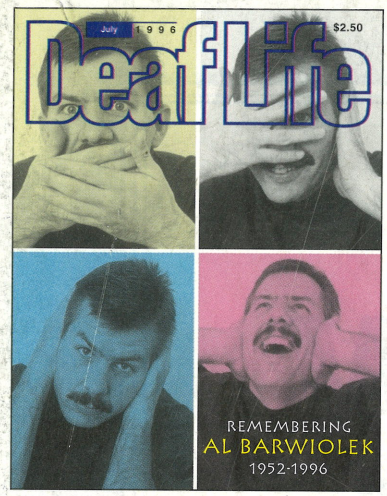
**campy**: teasingly funny; deliberately goofy or overdone; having a quality of sophisticated spoofing.■

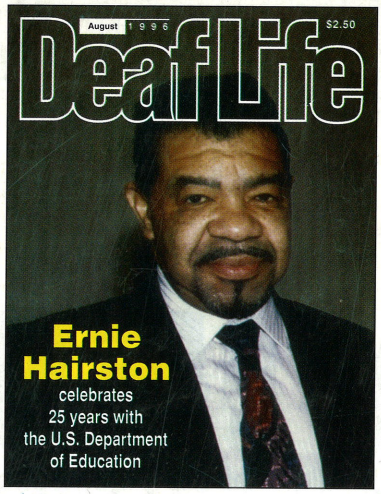
## COGAN'S DISEASE NETWORK

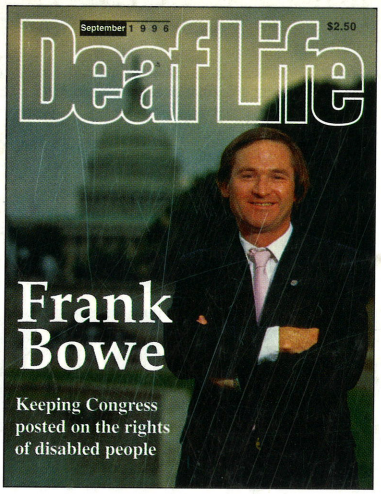
Cogan's Syndrome affects hearing people, causing them to become deaf. They rapidly lose their hearing, encounter eye inflammation, suffer from tinnitus, vertigo, and in some cases I.B.D.

We as a group number approximately 30 out of 150 worldwide. If you or someone you know has Cogan's, please write:

Cogan's Contact
P.O. Box 713
Garfield, NJ 07026
E-mail: USCOGANS@AOL.COM


July 1996 $2.50
Deaf Life
REMEMBERING
AL BARWIOLEK
1952-1996


August 1996 $2.50
Deaf Life
Ernie Hairston
celebrates
25 years with
the U.S. Department
of Education

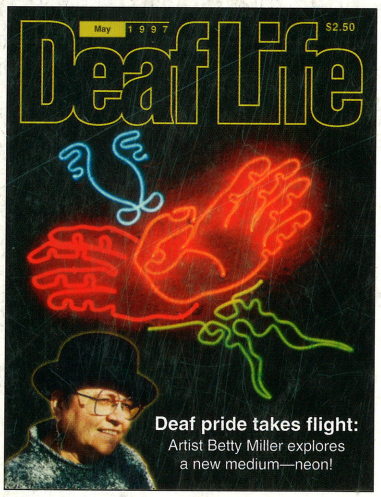

September 1996 $2.50
Deaf Life
Frank Bowe
Keeping Congress
posted on the rights
of disabled people

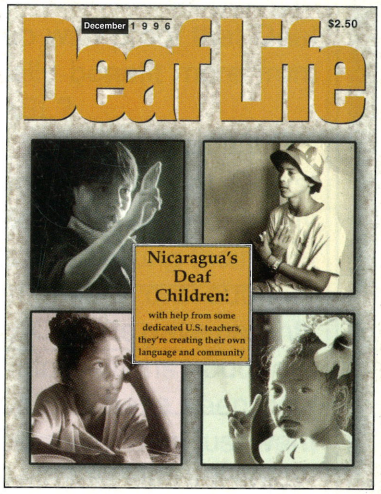
October 1996 $2.50
Deaf Life
OUR 100th ISSUE
Meghan Rainone
Miss Deaf America
1996-98

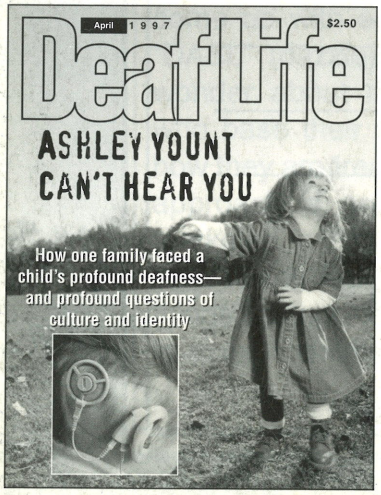
June 1997 $2.50
Deaf Life
FAKING IT
Was Holly Daniel deaf?
Or hearing?
The story behind Saturn's
"Deaf driver" hoax and
how she was exposed
by Trudy Suggs
Holly Daniel
as she appeared in
Saturn's print-media
advertisement

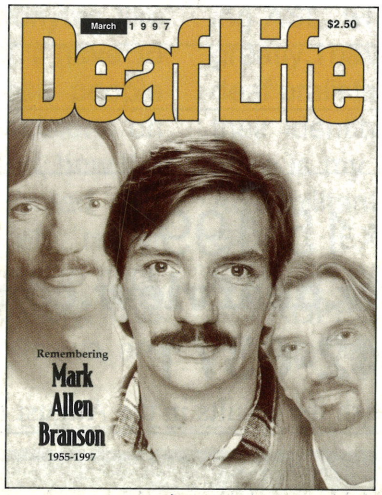
ANNIVERSARY
9th

November 1996 $2.50
Deaf Life
New
kid
on the
block
settles
in:
DeafNation
marks its
first
anniversary
DeafNation
D.E.A.F. at State Fair Draws 125,000 People
MSSD vs Texas
BONNEVO v. HILL
Great Deaf Americans 2 Published

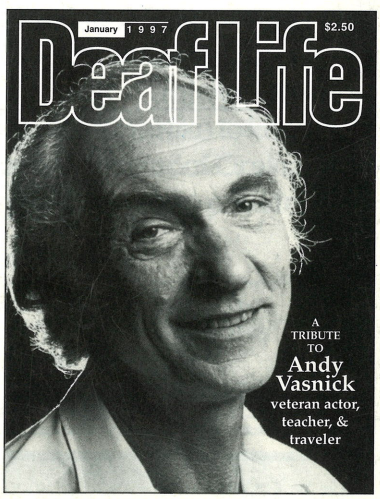

May 1997 $2.50
Deaf Life
Deaf pride takes flight:
Artist Betty Miller explores
a new medium—neon!


December 1996 $2.50
Deaf Life
Nicaragua's
Deaf
Children:
with help from some
dedicated U.S. teachers,
they're creating their own
language and community


April 1997 $2.50
Deaf Life
ASHLEY YOUNT
CAN'T HEAR YOU
How one family faced a
child's profound deafness—
and profound questions of
culture and identity


March 1997 $2.50
Deaf Life
Remembering
Mark
Allen
Branson
1955-1997

February 1997 $2.50
Deaf Life
USA
LAAAD
Deaf Sports War
two sides, two different stories


January 1997 $2.50
Deaf Life
A
TRIBUTE
TO
Andy
Vasnick
veteran actor,
teacher, &
traveler